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Mason Eagles re-  
turn to champion-  
ship game was  
long awaited

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# Muscogee Nation News

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## Creek Council House Museum partners with Creek Festival

OKMULGEE — The Creek Council House Indian Art Festival will be held in partnership with the Creek Nation Festival. The art festival was held previously in October. Even though the Museum's full blown festival will not be held, the museum will host fun-filled activities for the entire family on Saturday, June 19.

The Creek Council House Museum will kick off some new activities, including a fun-filled and creative "Starting Artist Competition." The categories will include: beadwork, moccasin making, pottery, fingerweaving, and basketry. This competition isn't for professional artists, but rather those creative people who have that artist inside them just waiting to come out. The museum wants the "Starting Artist Competition" to be a learning process and a way to tap into one's creative spirit.

The only criteria for the competitions prior participation in a Creek Council House Museum Art Class or a beginning artist who is an enrolled member of a Native American Tribe. There will be no more than three entries per category. Prizes will be awarded in each category. The artwork will be displayed in a special exhibit at the museum from June 19th-July 30th. Deadline for registration and artwork is June 12th.

Other activities such as beadwork, pottery and basketry will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. A very informative and beneficial symposium will be offered on Genealogy and the Dawes Commission Cards beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Museum Library.

Storyteller Will Hill and Genine Washington, will be hosting a Storyteller Time from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"We want to invite everyone to come and enjoy the events and activities that will be held at the Museum this year," said Ted Isham, Creek Council House Curator. "it will be a creative, educational and thrilling celebration of the Mvskoke people and rich culture."

For more information, contact the Museum at (918) 756-2324.

## Mills crowned 2004-2005 Miss Muscogee Nation



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is constantly seeking new ways to help tribal citizens. One of the ways it does so is through the Housing Authority, now under the direction of Creek Nation. An example of this assistance is the full metal house they provided to Mr. and Mrs. Gooden. This house was the first full metal house to be presented in this pilot program designed to assist the elderly who need new houses. Mr. and Mrs. Gooden were very pleased, saying, "We're going to have to be like the Japanese, taking our shoes off and washing our hands to come into the house." According to tribal administration, this is only a glimpse of the good things to come for the Housing Authority and the entire Creek Nation. For more information about the Creek Nation Housing Authority and its programs, contact them at 756-8504 or (800) 259-5050.

*photo by Denise Jacobs*

## World War II veteran visits memorial, remembers Death March

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On May 29, the National World War II Memorial was formally dedicated in the main mall of Washington, D.C.

The memorial was constructed near other historic structures, such as the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. The memorial will serve as a point of gratitude from a thankful nation and a reminder to future generations of those who served their country during a very critical time.

Phillip Coon, World War II veteran, made the journey from his home in Sapulpa to the Nation's Capitol to partake in the festivities. "It was quite an honor," said Coon, who was accompanied by his wife, Helen, and son Mike.

"Many people saw Dad's hat which had an inscription about the Bataan death march," said Mike. "They (people) really wanted to talk to him."

Coon served in the U.S.

Army during the war and was involved in the Pacific Theatre. Coon, along with 75,000 infantry men and Filipino soldiers, endured the horrible Bataan Death March, an ordeal in which allied prisoners of war were forced to march 100 miles under the rule of the Japanese military to prison camps with no guarantee of food or water. Along the way, Coon and countless others experienced tortuous conditions. Between 10

and 20 thousand prisoners of war died on this horrible march.





## Office of the Principal Chief...

by R.D. Ellis

Hello from Chief's Office, Just a very short article this month mostly with dates of upcoming events and meetings.

Most important is June 17, 18, 19 & 20, dates of the Pageant Reception and 31st Annual Festival and Rodeo.

June 24 is the date of the next town hall meeting to be conducted at the Holdenville Community Center. All citizens are invited to attend as we bring the government to the people.



Congratulations, to all the new Muscogee Nation Princesses and good luck representing our Nation for the next year. Also good luck to Pearl Thomas and may your retirement be the most enjoyable time of your life. Good luck and good health to all until we meet.

Quote of the month — *It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them.* Myto.

### Citizen thanks supporters

#### Editor:

I would like to thank all of those who ordered the Blue & Gold sausage from me. Thank you for helping support the Western Heights High Bank in Oklahoma City.

David Bear, Oklahoma City

### Creek citizens needed for re-enactment

#### Editor:

Mvskoke tvlofvike, I have been contacted by the Oklahoma Historical Society for the need of 42 Creek men to help in recreating an important time in Mvskoke history, by hosting a re-enactment concerning the signing of the Camp Holmes

## Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

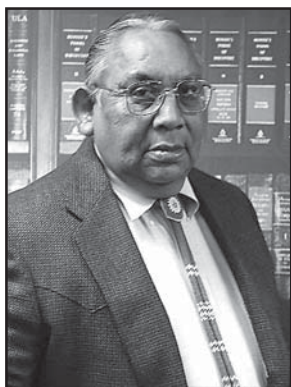
*Nettv herv.* It seems I was right when I last mentioned that we might need to revive one of our old traditions of splitting tornadoes. I've often wondered why some of the insurance carriers call a tornado, earthquake and hurricanes acts of God. I believe those things are a result of sin entering into this world and the earth is groaning because of it.

I apologize for not getting my article to the paper in time for publication last time. I would like to take this time to remind all veterans of the up-coming DAV seminar on June 11 at the Mound Auditorium beginning at 8:00 a.m. It is your benefits that are the concern of the DAV and the Nation. You have come through some very dangerous times and you are entitled to all the benefits that the Nation can offer you. I know money can't solve everything, but it helps ease your lifestyle.

About a month ago, I received a letter from the commander of the 120<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion of the 45<sup>th</sup> Division. Presently, they are stationed in Iraq. The commander requested two flags from the Nation to be flown over the headquarters of the battalion in Iraq. We honored that request and presently our Nation's flag is flying in Iraq. When the battalion returns from active duty, they will be taking one of the flags and putting it on display in the museum of the 45<sup>th</sup> Division in Oklahoma City. The other flag will be returned to our Nation to be placed in our archives, "bullet holes and all".

I understand that Chief Ellis has started a contest to give a name to the first buffalo (yv-nv-sv) to be born to our Nation and two more cows will be giving birth soon. We hope that in the future this herd will be large enough to begin an economic venture in the sale of buffalo products. Maybe one day, you would like to have a buffalo head mounted in your mansion.

The festival is fast approaching and we are all excited about



having a bigger and better festival this year. This year will mark the first time that the Committee will be hosting Creek singing; it will be held at the Okmulgee Community Center and various churches throughout the Nation will be sending their most outstanding singers.

By the time this comes out, Memorial Day will have been celebrated. I'm reminded of how our ancestors use to bury their dead before the "so called" discovery. Our people use to live in houses that had no wooden or cement floors and when a man/woman died they would dig a round hole under their bed. And of course a bed was not like what we sleep on now. It was merely a palate on the ground. After the hole was dug, they would put some type of cloth in the bottom of the hole. Then they would line the sides with some type of thatch. They would take the deceased and put him in a sitting position with both his legs crossed and tied together. Then, they would place him in the hole facing east with his head tilted upward. And if he were a warrior, they would put all his battle gear in with him. There was also a peace pipe and tobacco placed in the hole which would be used to smoke the pipe of peace in the other world. A round hoop was made and interwoven and placed over the grave. They would then partially cover the hole with thatch and finally finish covering the hole with clay to keep the smell out. After the grave was covered, four men, one on each corner stood with a rifle and fired a shot simultaneously; telling the other side that someone was coming. If he were married, the wife would make her bed over the grave and stayed in the house for four days. The period for mourning was four years.

Because we were told that we should not bury our dead in their house and that we need to bury them in a cemetery, we adapted. We even lay them flat. However, it was agreed that he needed to be buried in a house, you see these small houses over the graves today.

In our memorial, we shouldn't mourn for the dead, because they are in a much better place. In our language there is no word for goodbye we merely say "Cehecares", I'll see you again. And my brothers and sisters "Cehecares". Myto.

Treaty, which took place in 1835. This will mark its 170th year anniversary, and will take place at Ft. Washita in April 2005.

These are the materials needed for each Creek man:  
Long shirt – It takes between 4 and 5 yards of material to make one shirt, depending on your size. This will cost around \$12 or \$16+. This should be of cotton calico, striped or checked material. Linen will also be accepted. The material can be found at any Wal-Mart or fabric shop. These are not the same as a ribbon shirt.; Long coat – This will take between 4 - 6+ yards of material, also depending on your size. Material for a coat is generally \$4+ per yard, not including the material needed for ruffles. Contrasting colors should be used for the ruffles.; Turban—One yard of material costing \$4 to \$8+, will be enough to make a turban. The prices will vary according to your wants. Creeks favored blue, but red, black, and green was also worn according to historic images; Scarves – These were almost always of silk, linen (black and other colors), and cotton calico. Prices will also vary on this.; Wool for leggings – \$65 per meter (39" x 60") This is enough to make a pair of leggings and a breech cloth, with some material left over. Creeks preferred navy blue or black, but green and scarlet red was also worn. Binding for leggings were of various colors of silk, wool, and cotton. Optional brass buttons and small bells were used for closures and for ornamentation. Creek men's leggings were •

please see **LETTERS...**, page 4

## Muscogee Nation News

**The Muscogee Nation News** is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News**, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

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**Jennifer Taryole, circulation**  
**Ruth Bible, page layout**  
**Carla Brown, graphic designer**  
**Joshua Slane, reporter**



# Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the March 27, regular session.

## March 27, Regular session

Absent were: **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District.

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (22-2-0) TR 04-022, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a special services agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Micrguard Systems, LLC;

voting yes by district: **Tiger**, Creek District; **Harjo**, Creek District; **Barnett**, Creek District; **Pickering**, McIntosh District; **Notaro**, McIntosh District; **McIntosh**, McIntosh District; **Parish**, Muskogee District; **Watson**, Okfuskee District; **Wind**, Okfuskee District; **Golden**, Okfuskee District; **Jones**, Okmulgee District; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee District; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee District; **Williams**, Okmulgee District; **Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Ade**, Tukvptce District; **Fields**, Tukvptce District; **Quiett**, Tulsa District; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa District; **Hufft**, Tulsa District; **Kelley**, Tulsa District; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner District;

- approved (22-1-1) TR 04-025, authorizing the Principal Chief to accept a deed from the Trustees of the Okfuskee Memorial Hospital Authority and the Okfuskee County Board of County Commissioners for a tract of land in Okfuskee County, Oklahoma pursuant to a sublease entered into on November 4, 1977;

voting no were: **S. Johnson**, Muskogee;

abstain were: **Gillespie**, Muskogee;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) TR 04-029, support of a special diabetes initiative within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; due to a tie vote, Speaker will vote;

- approved (13-12-0) TR 04-031, repealing TR 03-094 and confirming the nomination of **Victoria Lee** to serve as the director for the Division of Health Administration,

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Notaro**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Parish**, Muskogee; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvptce; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (23-1-0) TR 04-035, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an application for membership and power purchase agreement and an agreement for purchase power with East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc.;

voting no were: **Cleghorn**, Tulsa;

- approved (23-1-0) TR 04-038, creating the Muscogee Nation System of Higher Education and establishing the Muscogee Nation Regents for Higher Education and creating an American Indian University;

voting no were: **S. Johnson**, Muskogee;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) TR 04-039, confirming the nomination of **Vernon Courtwright** to serve on the

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) TR 04-041, approving the selection of contractors for Bid #2004-007, the rehabilitation of four (4) mutual help homes, and one (1) privately owned home;

- approved (18-6-0) NCA 04-004, repealing NCA 94-10 (substitute) and establishing a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System;

voting no were: **Parish**, Muskogee; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (22-2-0) NCA 04-030, appropriating funds for a special services agreement with micrguard systems, LLC;

voting no were: **Watson**, Okfuskee; and **Golden**, Okfuskee;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-030, appropriating funds for a special services agreement with Micrguard Systems, LLC;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-037, appropriating funds for the incidental cost associated with accepting a deed from the trustees of the Okfuskee Memorial Hospital Authority and the Okfuskee County, Oklahoma pursuant to a sublease entered into on November 4, 1977;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-052, authorizing a special appropriation for emergency repairs to the Oklahoma Creek Association Building;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-052, authorizing a special appropriation for emergency repairs to the Oklahoma Creek Association Building;

representative **Golden** was out of seat at time of casing of vote;

- approved unanimously (23-0-0) NCA 04-053, authorizing a special appropriation for \$1,000.00 matching grant to the Vrakuece Este Mvskokvlke (Honoring The Creeks) committee, for the purpose of printing 2,000 booklets honoring historical creek figures, for eventual distribution to creek school students;

- return to committee (19-5-0) NCA 04-057, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the National Council for the purchase of twenty six (26) cellular telephones for the members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council;

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Ade**, Tukvptce; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Kelley**, Tulsa;

- approved unanimously as amended (24-0-0) NCA 04-059, amending NCA 04-035 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 04-035 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing the executive office reorganization act of 2004);

- approved (23-1-0) NCA 04-060, authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Business Enterprise for operations cost;

voting no were: **Pickering**, McIntosh;

## April 15, Extraordinary session

Absent were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Bible**, Tulsa; and **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

representatives **Pickering** and **Golden** arrived before voting;

- approved (20-1-1) TR 04-050, authorizing Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gaming Operations Authority Board to exercise temporary jurisdiction over the Okemah Indian Gaming Center;

voting no were: **Wind**, Okfuskee;

abstain were: **Fields**, Tukvptce;

- approved (22-0-0) NCA 04-055, enacting a new housing code and codifying said law in Title 24, "Housing," of the Code of Laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, repealing NCA 81-79, NCA 83-09, NCA 92-29, NCA 96-105, NCA 97-100, NCA 98-70 and NCA 98-131; and amending NCA 04-035 ("executive office reorganization act");

## April 24, Quarterly session

Absent were: **Fields**, Tukvptce;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

representative **Cleghorn** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (20-3-0) TR 04-034, confirming the renomination of **Charlotte Anderson** to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship board;

voting no were: **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Quiett**, Tulsa;

representative **Bible** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (23-0-0) TR 04-037, amending the memorandum of agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Housing Authority of Creek Nation of Oklahoma, Inc.;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) TR 04-040, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement for the purchase of a mineral interest on tribal property located in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) TR 04-043, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute and convey an easement to Southwestern Bell for the purpose of providing and maintaining telecommunications services to the elderly housing complex;

- approved (23-0-1) TR 04-044, authorizing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Trade and Commerce authority board chairman to execute an attorney agreement between the Tribal Trade and Commerce authority and **Timothy S. Posey** of the firm Riggs, Abney, Neal, Turpen, Orbinson & Lewis, Inc.;

abstain were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;

- approved (17-7-0) TR 04-045, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute two service agreement with U.S. Cellular;

voting no were: **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee;

May District Court filings

Civil Actions:

- Royal Finance Corp. vs. Shelley R. Jacobs
- Charles Selvidge vs. Trina Bevenue
- Suzanne McIntosh vs. HACN & BOC of the HACN
- MCN vs. Heather Daniels
- Credit Systems, Inc. vs. Sandra D. Knight
- Ricky Perez vs. Tammy Pittman

Protective Orders:

- Sarah Schooley vs. Robert Miller
- Teresa Jennings vs. Bobby Jennings
- Keith Humble vs. Carol Humble
- LaSandra Pewawardy vs. Gary Pewawardy & Suzanne Sewell
- LaSandra Pewawardy vs. Gary Pewewardy
- LaSandra Pewawardy vs. Suzanne Sewell

Divorce:

- Starla Dolan vs. Terry Joseph Dolan II
- Tamera K. Roberts vs. George A. Roberts

Criminal-felony:

- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Holly Torres  
— count 1: Possession of Illegal Drug

Criminal-misdemeanor:

- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Kent Bruner  
— count 1: Public Intoxication
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Gary George  
— count 1: Public Intoxication
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Donna Barns  
— count 1: Public Intoxication
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Duane Burgess  
— count 1: Possession of Illegal Drug  
— count 2: Possession of Paraphernalia
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Tenna VanWoudenbery  
— count 1: Public Intoxication
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Terro Winn  
— count 1: Public Intoxication

Traffic:

- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Byron Mitchell  
— count 1: Driving in Violation of Court Order
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Byron Mitchell  
— count 1: No Insurance
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Byron Mitchell  
— count 1: Expired Tag
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Thomas Nott  
— count 1: No Insurance
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Thomas Nott  
— count 1: Expired Tag
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Michael Sims Jr.  
— count 1: Driving Under Suspension
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Michael Sims Jr.  
— count 1: No Insurance
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Michael Sims Jr.  
— count 1: Expired Tag
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Phyllis Williston

- count 1: No Insurance
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Phyllis Williston  
— count 1: Expired Tag
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Phyllis Williston  
— count 1: Driving Under Suspension
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Ernest L. Hunter  
— count 1: Driving without License
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Rafael Lee Jr.  
— count 1: No Insurance
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Rafael Lee. Jr.  
— count 1: Expired Tag
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Rafael Lee Jr.  
— count 1: Driving in Violation of Court Order
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Monica Chandler  
— count 1: Driving under Suspension
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Artie Neal  
— count 1: Possession of Illegal Drug
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Christopher James  
— count 1: Possession of Paraphernalia
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Christopher James  
— count 1: Possession of Illegal Drug
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Jimmy J. Arnold  
— count 1: Driving under Suspension
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Bill Lee Bean III  
— count 1: Possession of Paraphernalia  
— count 2: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Heather Ashley Brown  
— count 1: Disorderly Conduct  
— count 2: Possession of Illegal Drug
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Brandee Trapp  
— count 1: Expired Tag
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Brandee Trapp  
— count 1: Driving under Suspension
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Brandee Trapp  
— count 1: No Insurance
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Jimmy J. Arnold  
— count 1: Expired Tag
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Robert G. Broad  
— count 1: Expired Tag
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Robert G. Broad  
— count 1: Driving under Suspension
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. John Henry Gudgel  
— count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Melissa G. Holland  
— count 1: Open Receptacle Containing AB in MV
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Mark K. Jones  
— count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Jennifer Lynn McCrackin  
— count 1: Open Receptacle Containing AB in MV
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Daniel Wade Morrall  
— count 1: Open Receptacle Containing AB in MV
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Regina Ann Primeaux  
— count 1: Open Receptacle Containing AB in MV
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Gilford R. Pringle  
— count 1: No Insurance
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Gilford R. Pringle  
— count 1: Expired Tag
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Jose Arturo Ruiz Jr.  
— count 1: Open Receptacle Containing AB in MV
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Holly Renee Torres

- count 1: Expired Tag
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Donnell Watashe  
— count 1: Driving under Suspension
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Donnell Watashe  
— count 1: No Seat Belt  
— count 2: No Child Restraint
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Justin D. Plum  
— count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Phillip R. Carey II  
— count 1: Possession of Illegal Drug  
— count 2: Possession of Paraphernalia
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Jason Don Richards  
— count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Terro Winn  
— count 1: Driving under Suspension
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Terro Winn  
— count 1: No Insurance
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Terro Winn  
— count 1: Possession of Alcohol
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Rashauna Thomas  
— count 1: Disorderly Conduct

Letters

continued from page 2

beaded with simple motifs, to very elaborate beadwork. This is just an option.; Buckskin – \$110+ for one brain tanned deer hide. This will make two or three pairs of moccasins, depending on your shoe size. It may be a good idea for two people to purchase one hide to make two pairs of moccasins.; Leggings were also made of buckskin, but this can be costly. It will take two hides for a pair of leggings.; Optional items worn by Creek men, silver earrings, brooches, arm bands, wrist bands, crosses, rings, turban bands, and gorgets.; Beads – Trade beads of various shapes and sizes were worn by Creek men and women. Colors are white, red, green, black, clear, and various shades of blue. This is also an option.; Fingerwoven items of 100% wool yarn, consisted of sashes, garters and hair ornaments. These also had size 10/0 white beads woven in the designs. Designs should be the chevron (v), double chevron (w), lightning, and the various diamond designs. Standard wool colors were red, black, blue, light blue, but green and gold was also used.

This will be an historic event with people portraying their ancestors. Only historically correct materials will be accepted. This will make up the basic Creek men's clothing. If you need any information on historic images, materials, ornaments, and how to make them, feel free to contact me at [seminole1753@yahoo.com](mailto:seminole1753@yahoo.com). ***Mvto.***

**Pare Bowlegs, Seminole**

Tribal member thanks Creek Nation  
**Editor:**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation both to the Muscogee (Creek) tribe and to the Creek Nation Housing Authority for the new home I received recently. The Housing Authority workers did a wonderful job and were very helpful to me during this process. Again, thank you all for the wonderful home that my family and I are enjoying so very much.

**Sue White, Okmulgee**



## Education

Thomas invited to National Youth Leadership forum

HOUSTON, TX —Andrew Thomas, a sophomore at Okmulgee High School, has been invited to and will attend the 2004 National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine in July.

Students are selected through the talent identification program, a voluntary pre-college classroom survey conducted by the National Research Center for College and University Admissions. This honor is exclusively for high-achieving students who exhibit exceptional leadership potential as well as interest in and an aptitude for a career in medicine.



Thomas

He will examine state-of-the-art diagnostic tools and future medical specialists in detail. Most important, he will study and learn from some of the nation's most distinguished medical leaders and research pioneer-visionaries and practitioners whose dedication and ability have brought them to the top of their profession.

He is the son of Randy Thomas and Denise McDonald and the grandson of Pod & Pearl Thomas and Ferd and Dolores Rucquoy of Okmulgee.

Andrew would like to say Mvto to the Muscogee Nation National Council for their financial support. A very special Mvto to Rita Williams for sponsoring the bill.

Citizen wins state coloring contest

OKLAHOMA CITY —Cassie Harjo garnered second place honors in the State Coloring Book Contest for the Oklahoma Main Street contest.

Harjo was presented her award at the Main Street Programs annual banquet on April 27 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

She is the daughter of Chris Harjo.

Phillips was honored student of the year award

TULSA — Tate Phillips, a fifth grader at Angus Valley Elementary School, was awarded the Student of the Year award. He received the award at the Indian Education Honors awards dinner.

He is the son of Rick and Tracy Phillips of Sand Springs. He is the grandson of Anita Young.



Phillips

## Birthdays

Blackbear celebrates with Bratz theme

OKMULGEE — Makayla Blackbear turned nine on Feb. 27 with a Bratz party at Mazzio's with family and friends.

She is the daughter of Farrel and Twyla Blackbear.

Maternal grandparents are James and Delores Mosquito of Okmulgee.

Paternal grandparents are Thomasine Long of Okmulgee and Rex Blackbear of Watonge.

Madelyn has three sisters, Madelyn, Raven and Autumn and one brother, Ira.



Blackbear

Harjo celebrates with Finding Nemo

TULSA— Savanna Harjo celebrated her third birthday at the Fun House with a Finding Nemo theme.

She belongs to the Deer Clan and is a member of the Euchee Tribal Town.

Savanna is the daughter of Ben Harjo and Amanda Bowman. Her grandparents are Thomas and Linda Harjo of Sapulpa and William and Earline Bowman of Tulsa.



Harjo

## Tulsa Creek Community Center gets big bang out of deal

TULSA — Tulsa Creek Indian community Center (TCIC) recently received a big boost from TNT fireworks.

Lonnie Basse, an official with TNT, attended the May meeting of TCIC and presented the center with a Fifteen thousand dollar check.

The check was given to the center in accordance with an agreement between TCIC and TNT to allow the firework company to operate firework stands on sovereign Muscogee (Creek) territory in the area.

"We are really glad to have a relationship with

TNT," said Jess Kelly, Tulsa Creek district representative. "This partnership will allow us (TCIC) to do

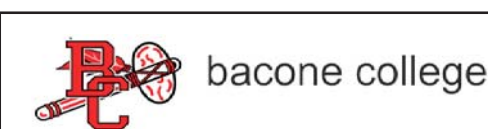
more for our youth group here. We will be able to purchase play ground equipment, perhaps even create a bigger building."

Basse, who is also associated with American Promotions was also praised the business deal, "this is our second year in working with TCIC and it works very well for both of us."

The firework stands will be placed near the Glenpool Indian Community Center, the Duck Creek Indian Community Center, and the Creek Nation Tulsa Bingo Casino.



Pictured above, from left to right: David Battiest, TCIC secretary; Lonnie Bass, American Promotions; June Mustari, TCIC Treasurer; Paula Willits, TCIC Chairman; and Leona Fish, TCIC Sargent-at-arms.



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## Green Corn Ceremony

As summer draws near, it's time for *Posketv* or Green Corn at the ceremonial grounds. Each ceremonial grounds will begin meeting with their members to discuss possible dates for their grounds' Green Corn ceremony.

The sacred fires are being rekindled again to start the cycle. The sacred fire is symbolic of the sun and its worship which was the old religion of the Southeast. It is built new at each Green Corn Ceremony, but originally it was an everlasting fire to be made new at each ceremony. All fires of the town were built from this fire. To this day the sacred fire is very carefully tended.

The women's Ribbon Dance and the men's feather Dance are an important part of the *Posketv*. The Ribbon Dance is the main day time ceremonial dance performed. The women, who are the only participants, wear strands of ribbons. Proceeding around the sacred fire, the positions of the dancers are determined by seniority. Turtles shell shakers are first, milk or tomato cans are last. The Feather Dance and the long dance are also dances of the daytime ceremonies.

## Tallahassee Wakokaye Cermonial Ground

OKFUSKEE COUNTY — Tallahassee Wakokaye's Mekko David Proctor is preparing for their *Posketv*. Proctor, who has been Mekko for eight years, feels strongly about his position of Mekko of the ceremonial ground. "It is an honor," states Proctor. "I was left with something that was passed on to me. I feel that I am a young man doing an old wise man's job."

His uncle, Lewis Proctor, was the Mekko prior to David. He credits his uncle as having a positive influence in the direction of his path. Lewis lived the life of Mekko, it was his being and his life. Proctor's other uncle, Willie, was Mekko of Weogukee at 15 years old.

David's father, Sam, who is involved with Tallahassee Wakokaye as the ground's elder and Helisaya, was a preacher. Growing up in a church atmosphere, David did not attend any Ceremonial grounds until he was around 12 years old. He has been involved at the grounds ever since. His first visit to a ceremonial ground was Weogufkee.

Proctor has seen a lot of changes growing up around the grounds. The way he was raised and what he has observed and learned is different now.

"Green Corn is a ceremony, a tradition and not just a social event," said Proctor. "I feel that some people have forgotten the meaning of *Posketv*. It should not be taken lightly, it should be respected and taken serious."

Proctor hopes to see parents take more responsibility in teaching their children the way it was meant to be. Parents have the responsibility to instill our tradition in our youth for future generations to carry on our cultural and ceremonies. By listening, learning, asking questions, and participating, children will know the meaning and importance of the four days before and the four days after, along with the do's and don'ts of our ceremonies.

Proctor encourages everyone to know the meaning of the *Circle*. Watch the elders and learn the way they respect the grounds, the mannerisms used in the ring, the songs sung and their meaning. Young women should pay attention to the way the shells are shook, they way they start out and end a song. A lot of our songs are getting lost with the passing of each generation passing. Young men need to learn the roots used for medicine, the meaning, it's ap-

pearance and its use.

"One of the most important and sometimes most difficult thing to do is to be dedicated to your ground," stated Proctor. "Don't let outside influences sway you and don't get away from what you are taught. Our elders had foreseen our future. They said there would come a day that our language and tradition would no longer exist. That era is visible in the near future. It is up to our generation to pass it on."

Proctor spoke of Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground elder, the late Phillip Deere, who spoke about how traditional meetings were held. It was a meeting where they took care of their people, their ground, not to look upon as a social function but as a sacred event.

Proctor is looking forward to his upcoming ceremonies. He feel it is a time for renewal, gathering, purification of one self. When asked how he felt about his first dance, his response was mixed.

"I feel it is a happy time, but special all the way around," said Proctor. "People coming home just for the Green Corn. It's a time to visit, to catch up, and learn from the elders. It's sad when it's over. People have to return to their routines and everyday lives. Once they've leave the ground, I feel somewhat empty and lonely."

He said is good to know that they have members that leave home, no matter how far away to live, and manage to come to the grounds. No matter how great the distance is, they never forget who they are and where they come from. It is good to see that these same families are passing these traditions on to their young.

Some people have different feeling about indoor dances. Proctor was asked how he felt about the indoor dances that are held during the winter months.

"I feel that it keeps the people together," he said. "It's an opportunity for the young men to practice leading and young women to practice shaking shells. It keeps the grounds together. It's not sac-religious, there is no mockery of the actual dances, no fire and no medicine. The participating grounds get to visit and socialize through out the winter months and the money raised is used to defray the expenses involved in maintaining their camps during the summer months."

Maintaining camps can be costly. The upkeep and repairs can get expensive. Proctor attended the Mekko's meeting in April. He was glad to see the current administration's attempt the bridge the gap and hopes that someone would be appointed to be a liaison or mediator between the two. He commends Principal Chief Ellis for his visibility and intentions. He participates, which is another thing that is long overdue. Some one who is involved in every aspect of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is needed.

Tallahassee Wakokaye Ceremonial Ground and Mekko David Proctor welcomes everyone to attend the StompDance at the Omniplex.

The stompdance, along with the Pageant Reception, will be kicking off the festival on Thursday, June 17, beginning at 6 p.m.

Muscogee Creek Nation's  
30th Annual Festival  
**Pvn'ka-Háco**  
Hosted by Tallahassee Wakokaye Ceremonial Ground

Muskoke Etvlwv  
Eta-Ma-Fac'ket Etah'kv-ketv  
Oh'Rolope Es Pale Tut'Ce-Nat

**StompDance**  
Thursday, June 17, 2004  
Claude Cox Omniplex - Okmulgee, OK

Artwork by Mariah Brown

Designed & Printed by MCN Communications Dept. 2004





OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Festival will be held June 17 through 20 at the Claude Cox Omnplex.

### Stompdance Exhibition

The Tallahassee Wakokaye Ceremonial Ground will be hosting a stompdance to kick the Festival off. Fellowship is from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with the dancing to follow at the Claude Cox Omnplex. Everyone is invited.

### Junior Olympics

The junior olympics will begin at 8:30 a.m. June 18 at Harmon stadium.

Events will include 30, 50, 100, 200, and 400 meter dashes, 400 meter relay, softball throw, hoop shoot, long jump, and a 1 mile run. For more information, contact Anthony Harjo or April Welsh at 732-7869.

### Golf tournament

A golf tournament will be held on June 18 through 20 at Cobblestone Creek in Muscogee.

June 18 will begin with a scramble. Entry fee registration will begin at noon and tournament start time will be 1 p.m. On June 19 players are responsible for scheduling tee times. June 20 has an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

### Concerts

The concerts are scheduled to start at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening with Bad Water; Don White; Brian Parton; and the Nashville Rebels. Headlining Friday is Highway 101.

Saturday's concerts start at 2:00 p.m. and will include: Medicine Pony; Red Rhythm Band; Uptown Horns; Scott Ellison; Jimmy Junior Markham; and Chris Zalez. Headlining Saturday is T. Graham Brown.

Chief Ellis is scheduled to speak at 7:00 p.m.

### All Indian Rodeo

Principal Chief A. D. Ellis wants this year's Rodeo to be the best All Indian Rodeo since Claude Cox was Chief. Contestants are coming from as far away as the Seminole Nation in Florida. The Rodeo runs Friday and Saturday night and starts at 8 p.m.

Prizes will be \$500 for senior events, added nightly, \$1,000 for team roping, added nightly, and \$100 for jr. events, added nightly.

### Gospel singing

The Gospel singing will be located at the OSU Extension Building at the Okmulgee County Fair Grounds beginning at 7:00 p.m. Each performer(s) will be allotted 15 minutes for three songs. A key board, cd/tape player, and drums will be provided. Five microphones will also be available. Please provide your own guitar.

Food will be served and after 9:00 p.m. Concession will be available.

### Men and Women's Fast Pitch Tournament

The men and women's fast pitch tournament will begin Friday evening and run through Sunday at the Claude Cox Omnplex.

Last year's champions were the Fus-ca-te for the women's teams and the Old School for the men's teams. Entry was limited to 40 teams, 24 men's teams, and 12 women's teams. The tournament will be ran in a double elimination format and looks to be very competitive.

### Men and Women's 3 on 3 Basketball

There will be a 3 on 3 basketball tournament starting Friday at 6 p.m.. Participants must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe with a CDIB or enrollment card.

First through third place gets a team trophy and T-shirts, while the MVP gets a pullover. There are four divisions for men and women: 8 - 11 year old, 12 - 14 year old, 15 - 18 year old, and 19 and up.

### Creek Hymn Singing

Creek Hymn Singing will be Friday and Saturday night at the Okmulgee Indian Community Center starting at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the good music and the celebration of Muscogee culture.

### Co-Ed Slow Pitch

A Co-Ed slow pitch softball tournament will be starting Friday night. The top four places will receive prizes and balls will be provided. Defending champion Connection, as well as last year's runner-up, The Braves, and a team from Arizona, will be attending this year's tournament. Games will be held at the Okmulgee City Parks.

### Elderly Activities

Elderly activities will be held June 19 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Fair Grounds Building. Activities will include: horse shoes, dominoes, archery, and 10 games of bingo. Lunch will be provided. Also, there will be an elder's county fair, with competitions in clothing, crafts, baked goods, art, canned goods, traditional foods, and quilts.

### Honoring the Allottees

The theme for this year's festival is "Honoring Our Original Allottees." There are only three of these very special people remaining.

In honor of the allottees, both living and dead, a reception is being held Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Green Country Vo-Tech on Loop 56 and Kennedy Drive. Everyone is invited to come out and show the allottees just how much the Muscogee (Creek) Nation cares.

For more information please call Donna Martin at (918) 732-7963.

### 5K run/walk

The 5K run/walk will be on June 19 and starts at the Muscogee Nation complex.

Entry fee through June 18 is \$15 or \$20 on race day (includes t-shirt

or \$10 without t-shirt.

Limited number of shirts available. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the race begins at 8:00. Water will be provided.

### Traditional Mvskoke Arts

OKMULGEE — For the first time the Creek Council House is working with the Creek Nation Festival to celebrate the traditional Mvskoke arts. On Saturday, June 19 adults can enjoy a juried traditional art competition, master artist show and sale, and Dawes Commission Cards Symposium.

Children can be a rabbit or turtle in an interactive story telling workshop, learn Pow Wow and Stomp dances, or play a game of stickball.



Chief Ellis, far left, watches Martha Berryhill and Katie Smith perform during the Pageant on June 5.



# Muscogee Division of Health Administration Activities

## Sapulpa Health Center Art Contest

SAPULPA — Health Center is announcing an art contest that will be held during the month of June. This contest will be for people 12 years and older. The Winner of the art (mural, paintings, drawings, in their choice of medium) will be hung or painted on their new walls at the clinic. For further information regarding this art contest please contact Florence July at (918) 224-9310 ext. 241. The Staff at the center would like to also welcome everyone to visit their newly remodeled Health Center.

## Street Teams Against Tobacco Abuse

OKMULGEE — Youth 15 to 18 years of age are encouraged to join the MCN Tobacco Prevention Program Street Teams. Currently they have established Street Teams in six communities including Dustin, Okemah, Edmond, Sapulpa, Wetumka and Weleetka. Each team consists of 4 to 5 members. These exceptional youth teams travel to different events such as rodeos, tournaments, festivals and other special events where public youth may be attending. The Street Team goal is to enjoy, encourage, educate and empower Muscogee youth. Among some of their challenges include educating youth about the traditional use of tobacco and the hazards of tobacco abuse. For further information about the MCN Street Teams, please contact Marcus Proctor at (918) 756-6231.

## Camp Cvfeke netv 2004

WEWOKA — The MCN Tobacco Prevention Program in collaboration with other DHA Programs will be hosting their 4th Annual Youth Camp in July 12th, 13th, & 14th. This camp will be for ages 12-18. Camp Cvfeke netv (Wellness) has been created to teach youth about the Healthy Muscogee Traditions and the hazards of tobacco abuse. This year Camp Cvfeke netv will be held at the Wewoka Woods Camp Grounds. Space is limited and pre-registration will be required to attend. Some activities include canoeing, horseback riding, archery, pottery, 5k runs/walks, ballstick making,

traditional cooking, and many more! For more information, contact the Tobacco Prevention Program at (918) 756-6231.

## Summer Jump Rope Diabetes Program

OKEMAH — Through the month of June the MCN Diabetes Program will be providing a Youth Jump Rope Program for 3rd and 4th grade students in the Okemah and Mason area. This program will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am to 10:30am in the Mason School Gymnasium. For more information please contact Scott Robison at (800) 219-9458 or (918) 623-1424 ext. 458.

## "Move It" Diabetes Program

OKEMAH — The 1st – 6th grade students from McIntosh County, were targeted for the "Move It" program. The program promoted physical activity by challenging each student to help his or her class walk the distance of Route 66 highway from Chicago to California (2450 miles) throughout the school year by performing daily exercise in 30 minute sessions. The program was incentive-based for both the students and the teachers. Each time a student performed 30 minutes of exercise, they were given a "Move It" coupon which was worth 5 miles for their class and 25 miles for the student. This coupon was put in a "Move It" box and names were drawn out each month for prizes. At the end of December, February, and April classroom miles were totaled and the class at each school that had walked the most miles received a check to be used for classroom supplies. First place was \$200, second was \$100 and third place was \$50. The students who individually completed the journey of 2450 miles (28 weeks, approximately 4 days per week, 30 minutes per day of exercise) had their names entered in the grand prize drawing, which was a trip for a family of four to Disneyland. At the end of the program we had an Olympic style award presentation with each participant receiving a certificate and medallion for their hard work.

The following results were gathered from evaluation: 42% of the students had a reduction in BMI (Body Mass Index), 1/2 mile run/walk 50% of the students improved their times, 57% increased their push up total during the Push Up Test, 74% increased their sit up total, and 37% increased their sit and reach score during the sit and reach flexibility test.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Program plan to provide the "Move It" Program to the Okfuskee county students in Bearden, Mason, Weleetka and Graham schools in the upcoming school year. This program was adapted from a program called "Getting Kids Trekkin" and conducted in Tulsa Schools in previous years. It was renamed "Move It" to identify with the youth programs being promoted by the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP).

For more information about the "Move It" Program contact Scott Robison at (918) 623-1424 ext. 458.

## CHR's K.E.E.P. Screening

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Health Representatives in collaboration with the National Kidney Foundation are hosting a K.E.E.P Screening at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center on July 15th. Testing will be held between 9 am. – 2:00 pm. Everyone is invited. Door prizes and refreshments will be made available. TCIC is located off Hwy 75 at 8511 S. Union. If you would like to participate in this screening please contact Etta Dickerson or Bonnie Jones at (918) 756-1941 or Laura Wesley at (918) 298-2464.

## Family Caregiver Training

OKMULGEE — Creek Nation Caregiver Program is offering basic training to individuals or families who provide personal daily activity care to an elder. Elders must be 55 years or older and live within the Creek Nation service area. For more information please contact Loretta Jumper at 1-800-353-3439 or (918) 758-2727 ext. 260.

## From the office of the Chief Executive Officer

Hello my name is Victoria Lee, Chief Executive Officer for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System. I am an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation from Pine Springs, Arizona. I am of the Water Edge Clan and born from the Towering House People.

As the CEO for the MCN Health System, I am responsible for the management and operations of the health care system that include four outpatient clinics, one hospital, CHR Program, Elderly Nutrition Program, WIC, Contract Health, Tobacco Prevention Program, Behavioral Health Services, Diabetes Program and EMS Program.

My experience in the health care field include serving as the National CHR Program for the Indian Health Service, Executive Director for Rapid City Indian Health Board, Staff Attorney for Division of

Health and being a Health Care Consultant for various tribes. My educational background includes attending Arizona State University, Bachelor of Science and Health Science and Juris Doctor (College of Law) and University of Hawaii, Master of Public Health in Health Services Administration and Planning.

I look forward to working with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and assisting with improving the Health Care System and status of the citizens and other Native Americans. I encourage citizens to visit our facilities and staff to make recommendations for improving our health care system.

For more information about the Division of Health Administration or to make recommendations, contact the DHA at (918) 756-3334.

## Coweta Health Center Update

OKMULGEE — In the May Regular Session, the Muscogee National Council authorized the Principal Chief to execute a loan agreement for the construction of the Coweta Health Center. Principal Chief A.D. Ellis signed that agreement on Friday, June 4th.

Final preparations are underway on the contractual agreements with both an architectural firm and a construction management firm to perform the work for the construction project. It is expected that Muscogee Nation Staff will begin work within the next month on the design for the clinic.

Groundbreaking and construction will proceed at that time. For more information about the project, contact Bret Hayes at (918) 756-3334.



Election Board

The following registered absentee voters need to contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation election board office at (918) 732- 7684.

Gamble, Robert Lee  
Garcia, Deborah V.  
Garrett, Eula Velma  
Garris, Pamela Jean  
Garrison, Ruth Ann  
Gaskins, Elizabeth W.  
Gaston, Oliver Don  
Gee, Carmen Kay  
George, Addie Faye  
George, Roy Reed  
George, Ruben Dee  
George, Stephen Rufus  
Geralis, Marsha Lynn  
Gibson, Pamela Kay  
Gideon, Michael Glen  
Gideon, Peggy Lee  
Gilcrease, Michael Lee  
Gilliam, Constance K.  
Gilliam, Maude Marie  
Gillispie, Barbara Jean  
Gilmore, Rhayma Kay  
Girod, Gerald Scott  
Gisler, Dee Anna  
Givens, Charles Jr.  
Gladden, Jason  
Glasco, Tonya Deonne  
Goate, Johnson Alfred  
Goddard, Mary E.  
Goode, Bethel R.  
Goodman, Brenda  
Goodrich, Cynthia L.  
Gordon, John Harold  
Gossett, Carolyn Jane  
Goudeau, Jurlden  
Gouge, David Allen Jr.  
Gouge, Thompson  
Graham, Barbara W.  
Graham, Brian C.  
Graham, Kimberly Sue  
Grant, Margaret Jane  
Gray, Carrie Christine  
Gray, Walter Eugene  
Gray, Walter L.  
Grayson, Beatrice  
Grayson, Cary Charles  
Grayson, Curtis W. Jr.  
Grayson, Doris Ann  
Grayson, Richard M.  
Green, Kevin Allen  
Green, Liza Suzanne  
Greenwood, Heather.  
Greenwood, John M.  
Greenwood, Nona Lue  
Greenwood, Robert L.  
Gregory, Fletcher R.  
Griffin, Kristina Paige  
Griffin, Marla Jean  
Griffith, Robert  
Griffith, Tony Dee  
Grimes, John Merritt  
Grimes, Katie Louise  
Gutierrez, Marcella L.  
Grimsley, Stella E.  
Grissom, John Edward  
Grubbs, Darrell  
Grubbs, Michael E.  
Grudy, Pamela Renee  
Grummitt, Beverly  
Guild, Elizabeth Ann

Guild, Virginia Ann  
Gullicksen, Timothy J.  
Hack, Everett Lee  
Haddox, Deborah D.  
Haddox, Kevin James  
Haddox, Marilyn Day  
Haggard, Arby Nettie  
Haikey, Cindy Lou  
Haikey, John Phillip  
Hain, Richard Todd  
Hale, Barbara Dene  
Hale, David Robert  
Hale, Debbie Sue  
Hale, Merci Lee  
Hale, Robert Lee  
Hale, Tommie Nelson  
Haley, George Elmer  
Hall, Carol Ann  
Hall, Mary Ruth  
Hall, Melba Jo  
Hallford, Louie Lyon  
Hallum, Lucille  
Hallum, Terry  
Hamblet, Frank Harold  
Hammer, Leigh Ann  
Hamon, Shona Rosella  
Hanley, Regina Lynn  
Hanson, Flossie Arnita  
Hardin, Ruby Ladonna  
Harding, Eddie Ray  
Harjo, Albert Lee  
Harjo, Barney Dale  
Harjo, Bennie Duke  
Harjo, Claudette  
Harjo, Danny Allen  
Harjo, Douglas  
Harjo, Elmira  
Harjo, Geoffory James  
Harjo, Gerald  
Harjo, Jennifer  
Harjo, Joe  
Harjo, Joseph Leon  
Harjo, Kelly Newman  
Harjo, Laura Ann  
Harjo, Lawrence Dean  
Harjo, Lincoln Eric  
Harjo, Linda Joyce  
Harjo, Mary Ann  
Harjo, Matilda Maxine  
Harjo, Naomi Ruth  
Harjo, Opal Nanette  
Harjo, Rhonda Dene  
Harjo, Roy Dean  
Harjo, Shelly Renee  
Harjo, Ted Wayane  
Harjo, Wilson Scott  
Harjochee, Frankie D.  
Harjochee, Michael A.  
Harper, Casey Robin  
Harper, James Stephen  
Harper, Renee’ Lavelle  
Harper, Wanda Sue  
Harris, Leva  
Harris, Wilbert Erick  
Harrison, Connie Mae  
Harrison, Norma V.  
Hart, Carol Lynn  
Hart, Gregory Earl  
Hart, Shawna Susan

Hartung, Jeffrey Brian  
Harvey, Allen Ray  
Harvey, Alpha Mae  
Harvey, Bernice  
Harvey, Delphia Mae  
Harvey, Millie  
Harwell, Gilbert Paige  
Hatcher, Leslie Kay  
Hatcher, Ozelle  
Hawkins, Barney Jr.  
Hawkins, Clint Clay  
Hawkins, Gary  
Hawkins, Leta Suzann  
Hayes, Lisa Ann  
Hayhurst, Randell Ellis  
Haynes, Vernon  
Hays, Sallie  
Heater, Peggy Lynne  
Heinbach, Susan  
Henderson, Charles J.  
Henderson, William V.  
Hendrix, Janice Louise  
Henneha, Laura Beth  
Henry, Connie Rene  
Henry, Johnie William  
Henry, Stephen  
Henshaw, Carol Lynn  
Herbert, Jenea  
Hernandez. Liza Jane  
Herring, Juliana Lynn  
Herrod, Camille Anne  
Herrod, Lanny Chris  
Herrod, Leona Lynn  
Herrod, Louise  
Herrod, Richard Leon  
Herron, Michael  
Hess, Paul Jerome  
Hess, Regina Ann  
Hester, Robert Joe  
Hicks, Gary Dean  
Hicks, Michael Keith  
Hicks, Norman W. Jr.  
Hicks, Robert Jeffrey  
Hightower, Marylou  
Hill, Annetta Jean  
Hill, Bryant Lee  
Hill, Dora May  
Hill, Joann  
Hill, Katherine Lousie  
Hill, Levi  
Hill, Stewart  
Hill, Wayland Jess  
Hixson, Karen Marie  
Hoag, Mary Lee  
Hobbs, Donna Lee  
Hobbs, Leann  
Hobia, Kelley Sue  
Hodge, Billy Gene  
Hodge, Floyd Wayne  
Hodge, Jerry Wade  
Hodge, Kelly Denise  
Hodge, Larry Dean  
Hodges, Frances Jean  
Hodges, Francis Jane  
Hoffman, Judy Irene  
Hoffman, Loretta  
Hoffpauir, Jeffrey  
Hogner, David Adam  
Holata, Louis  
Holdridge, Brandon S.  
Holladay, Robert D.  
Holland, Marjorie  
Holleyman, Henry M.  
Holleyman, Homer D.  
Holleyman, Randall D.  
Holleyman, Robert P.

Holloway, Eastman R.  
Holloway, Gwen  
Holmes, Rebecca  
Holmes, Shirley Ann  
Holt, Hazel Marie  
Holt, Marvin Louis  
Homeratha, Effie  
Hones, Jeremiah K.  
Hood, barry Keith  
Hood, Rachel Nicole  
Hood, Wanda Jean  
Hope, Kathy Jo  
Hope, Pamela Kaye  
Hopgood, Adrianne  
Hopper, Clara Elaine  
Horton, Artie, Raynell  
Horton, Heather  
Horton, Samuel S.  
Howard, Leland Bruce  
Huckaby, Paul David  
Hudgens, Wendy L.  
Hughes, James Robert  
Hughes, William  
Hull, Eva Beatrice  
Hull, William Loren  
Hulsey, Harry James  
Hulsey, Jeffrey Leon  
Hunt, James Charles  
Hunt, William  
Hunter, Frank John, Jr.  
Hunter, John Howard  
Hunter, Karen Joyce  
Hunter-Law, Michele  
Hurd, Gwendolyn  
Hurd, Terry Joe  
Hutson, Myrna J.  
Hyde, Richard Ross  
Inderlied, Karen Elaine  
Indian, Evangelina A.  
Ingram, Marjorie Ann  
Ingram, Thomas C.  
Irish, Linda Kay  
Isham, Sara Renee  
Isham-Amos, Tina M.  
Ishmael, Carl Casper  
Ishmael, Maxine  
Ispocogee, Micco T.  
Jack, Everett, Lee  
Jackson, Betty Sue  
Jackson, Billy Bob  
Jackson, Clifford O. Jr.  
Jackson, Dave  
Jackson, Jerry Lewis  
Jackson, Jimmie  
Jackson, John  
Jackson, Kelley Ray  
Jackson, Kenneth  
Jackson, Shelly Lynn  
Jackson, Timmie O.  
Jackson, Timothy A.  
Jacobs, Linda  
Jacobs, Warren A.  
Jacobs, William R.  
Jacobs, Willie  
James, Cynthia Diane  
James, Jeffrey Willie  
James, Michael Lee  
James, Orville E. Jr.  
James, Robert Edward  
James, William  
Janzen, Teresa Darnell  
Jefferson, Pauline  
Jenkins, William Lance  
Jessie, Lisa Sue  
Jihad, Roshell  
Jimboy, Jay Martin

Jimboy, Marcy  
Jimboy, Tonya Renee  
John, Mary  
Johnson, Betty Alice  
Johnson, Charles E.  
Johnson, David  
Johnson, David Lyle  
Johnson, Emma Guila  
Johnson, Erwin Jan  
Johnson, Gary  
Johnson, Gregory  
Johnson, Jeanetta Sue  
Johnson, Joseph  
Johnson, Kimberly  
Johnson, Lizzie  
Johnson, Mary Blenda  
Johnson, Ronald  
Johnson, Sherri Jean  
Johnson, Thomas Lee  
Johnson, Twana  
Johnston, Tracey  
Jones Patrick Wayne  
Jones, Alysia Marie  
Jones, Bonnie Lynn  
Jones, Charles Allen  
Jones, Jesse Allen Jr.  
Jones, Juanita May  
Jones, Kathryn  
Jones, Kelli Jolleen  
Jones, Kenneth  
Jones, Opal Deleta  
Jones, Phoebe Ann  
Jones, Shane O’Dell  
Jones, William Authur  
Jordan, Clifford  
Jordan, Lillian Gladys  
Jordon, Jennifer  
Judy, Randy Lee  
Kali, Kristi Kehaulani  
Kaseca, Nancy  
Kassim, Audie J.  
Katcv, Freeman, M.  
Keaough, Evelyn Jean  
Keele, Valace Marion  
Keeler, Edgar Lee  
Keene, Darryl Lee  
Keene, Kenneth K. Jr.  
Kellehan, Carla Dawn  
Kellehan, Paula Jean  
Kelley, Flora Darlene  
Kelley, Loretta Ilene  
Kelly, Bill Dean  
Kelly, Martha  
Kelough, Jimmy  
Kemp, Randy Glen  
Kenney, Sandra Marie  
Kepley, Paul Franklin  
Kernal, Harry  
Kerns, Charlotte Ann  
Kerr, Barre Dana  
Kerr, Dennis M.  
Kerr, Marc Randan  
Kezer, Claude Dean  
Kimble, Travis Lynn  
King, Dale Edward  
King, Lauren Jennifer  
King, Michael Eugene  
King, Tara Ann  
King, Terry Damon  
King-Simmons,  
Carolyn  
Kinne, Christena Sue  
Kinsey, Rachel  
Kirby, James Dean  
Knight, Jackson Ray  
Knights, Carol Denise

Knotts, Juanita Louise  
Knox, Clyde Douglas  
Knox, David Lee  
Knox, Michael Wayne  
Koshiway, Marilyn  
Kuykendall, Malinda  
Lackey, Billy Joe  
Ladd, Trisha Dawn  
Laman, Juanita G.  
Land, Dinah K.  
Lane, Paula Jo  
Lanham, Larry Lee  
Lara, Wynona  
Larew, Carol Sue  
Latchaw, Raelyn R.  
Lavalley, Thomas L.  
Lawhom, Susie D.  
Leach, Loretta Sue  
Leader, Cynthia Lynn  
Leard, Dale Lee  
Leard, Lane Manchie  
Leath, Mary Catherine  
Lee, Andrew Dean  
Lee, James Wesley  
Lee, Johnnie Mae  
Lee, Linda Lou  
Lee, Ricky James  
Legrand, Lahoma L.  
Lena, Louis  
Lena, Mark D.  
Leroy, Melissa Ann  
Lester, Betty Jane  
Levecqec, Patricia Ann  
Levy, David Benjamin  
Lewis, Charles L.  
Lewis, Harley Wayne  
Lewis, James Randall  
Lewis, Jessie Wayne  
Lewis, Lizzied  
Lewis, Selina Jane  
Leybas, Daniel Glenn  
Lidyard, Pamela Jane  
Lile, Janet Ruth  
Lindsey, Buddy Jr.  
Lindsey, Mary  
Lingerfelt, Bobbie Jean  
Lipp, Serena Kay  
Litsey, James Richard  
Little Kendall Jay  
Littlehead, William Bill  
Livingston, Jessica Lea  
Livingston, Kenneth  
Livingston, Plezzie M.  
Logan, Jemmie Melton  
Logsdon, Rickey  
Lollman, Cheri Joann  
Long, Dana Eugene  
Long, Darlene Joann  
Long, Penny Ann  
Long, Rhonda Sue  
Long, Roddy William  
Long, Taylor  
Lovelady, Ruby Lee  
Loven, Linda Kay  
Lovett, Donna Luann  
Lowe, Jerry Roosevelt  
Lowe, Pauline  
Lowery, Ruby Thelma  
Lowther, Sylvia  
Loyd, Barry Wendell  
Loyd, Bobby David  
Lozier, Deforest Abe  
Lucas, Robert Jesse  
Luke, Mary Ruth  
Lutz, Marla jenee  
Lynch, Richard

Lyon, Phillip Earl  
Madrid, Lori Anne  
Magee, Ernest Neely  
Magee, Linvial John  
Mahee, Otis, Jr.  
Mahlen, Peggy Lee  
Mahoney, Maggie  
Mann, Terri Lee  
Mannon, Alice Hanna  
Marble, Ivan Franklin  
Marks, Billy Joe  
Marr, Shelly Kay  
Marshall, Emma C.  
Marshall, Leona Mae  
Marshall, Sean Louis  
Marshall, Semary Ann  
Martin, Clista  
Martin, Luwana Kay  
Martin, Rosa Mary  
Martinez, Amanda  
Martinez, Angela  
Martinez, Harry Joe  
Mason, Edward James  
Mason, Herman A.  
Mason, Nancy Sue  
Mason, Randall Alan  
Massey, Dorotha K.  
Masters, Luzimenda  
Masters, Patricia Ann  
Matheson, Katrina D.  
Mathews, Barbara  
Mathews, Shirley Ann  
Matthews, Virginia Illa  
Mattison, Richard  
May, Bekki Jean  
Mayer, Jeania Ann  
Mayfield, Rosezella  
McAtee, Margaret  
McCabe, Terry  
McCampbell, Shelia  
McCargo, Michelle R.  
McCarty, Eldridge  
McClain, John Albert  
McClain, Larry Don  
McClelland, Clarabell  
McCloskey, Barbara  
McClung, Charles III  
McConnell, Anne A.  
McCosar, Bruce H.  
McCosar, James P.  
McCosar, Vivian  
McCoy, Melvin  
McCutcheon, Carol  
McCutcheon, Daniel  
McCutcheon, David P.  
McElroy, James  
McElroy, Marlena  
McElroy, Timothy W.  
McGehee, Marsha  
McGhee, Elizabeth  
McGilbra, James  
McGuire, Annette  
McHenry, Onis F. III  
McIntosh, Phillip  
McIntosh, Charles  
McIntosh, Clark  
McIntosh, Cornelius  
McIntosh, Debra Kay  
McIntosh, Delois  
McIntosh, Gary II  
McIntosh, Robert R.  
McIntosh, Tiger Jr.  
McIntosh, Tyola E  
McIntosh, Ned  
McKay, Lela Elma  
McKellip, Janice

McLaurin, Donald Jr.  
McLaurin, Velma Jene  
McLean, Nancy E.  
McLemore, Jerri Lynn  
McLnevin, Richard  
McMahan, David  
McMahan, Sheryl  
McNack, Alex Jr.  
McNeese, Robert  
McQuarie, Richard  
McQueen, Dana Rai  
McGee, Jo Ann  
Meitler, Jacquie  
Melton, Chalon  
Melton, Eugene  
Merabal, Christopher  
Middleton, James Jr.  
Miller, Claude Ernest  
Miller, Coydell  
Miller, Jerry Denise  
Miller, Robert Chance  
Mills, David Lawrence  
Millwee, Teresa Dian  
Mitchell, Byron, Lee  
Mitchell, Jennifer Ann  
Mitchell, Joseph  
Moffer, Karen Jean  
Montemayor, Wendy  
Montgomery, Candace  
Monts, Jeanetta Olivia  
Moore, Albert Daneil  
Moore, Anna  
Moore, Bobby Jean  
Moore, Damon Dion  
Moore, Deana Sue  
Moore, James Edwin  
Moore, Jimmie Dee  
Moore, Kelley  
Moore, Steven Allen  
Moore, William Roy  
Morgan, Barbara Jean  
Morgan, John Robert  
Morton, Charles IV  
Morton, Sara Louise  
Moses, Cynthia  
Moses, Wanda Jean  
Mount, Kimberly  
Mount, Linda Fay  
Mount, Melissa Kaye  
Mowles, Irene  
Msttid, Louise  
Muirhead, Emma Cleo  
Muller, Pauline  
Mulliniks, Judy  
Murdock, Barbara  
Murphy, Phillip Ray  
Murray, Dorene Kay  
Musick, Meridith Ann  
Mutteloke, John Willie  
Myers, Gay Lynn  
Myers, Rex Curtis  
Najera, Vickie Lynn  
Narcomey, Anthony  
Narcomey, Bernice E.  
Narcomey, Blanche A.  
Navarro, Lisa Marie  
Nease, Viola Marie  
Nelson, Lora Ann  
Nester, Ramona Faye  
Newberry, David Neil  
Newberry, Larry F.  
Newport, Margie  
Nichols, Elsie Marie  
Nickell, Maynard  
Nienhuis, Virginia

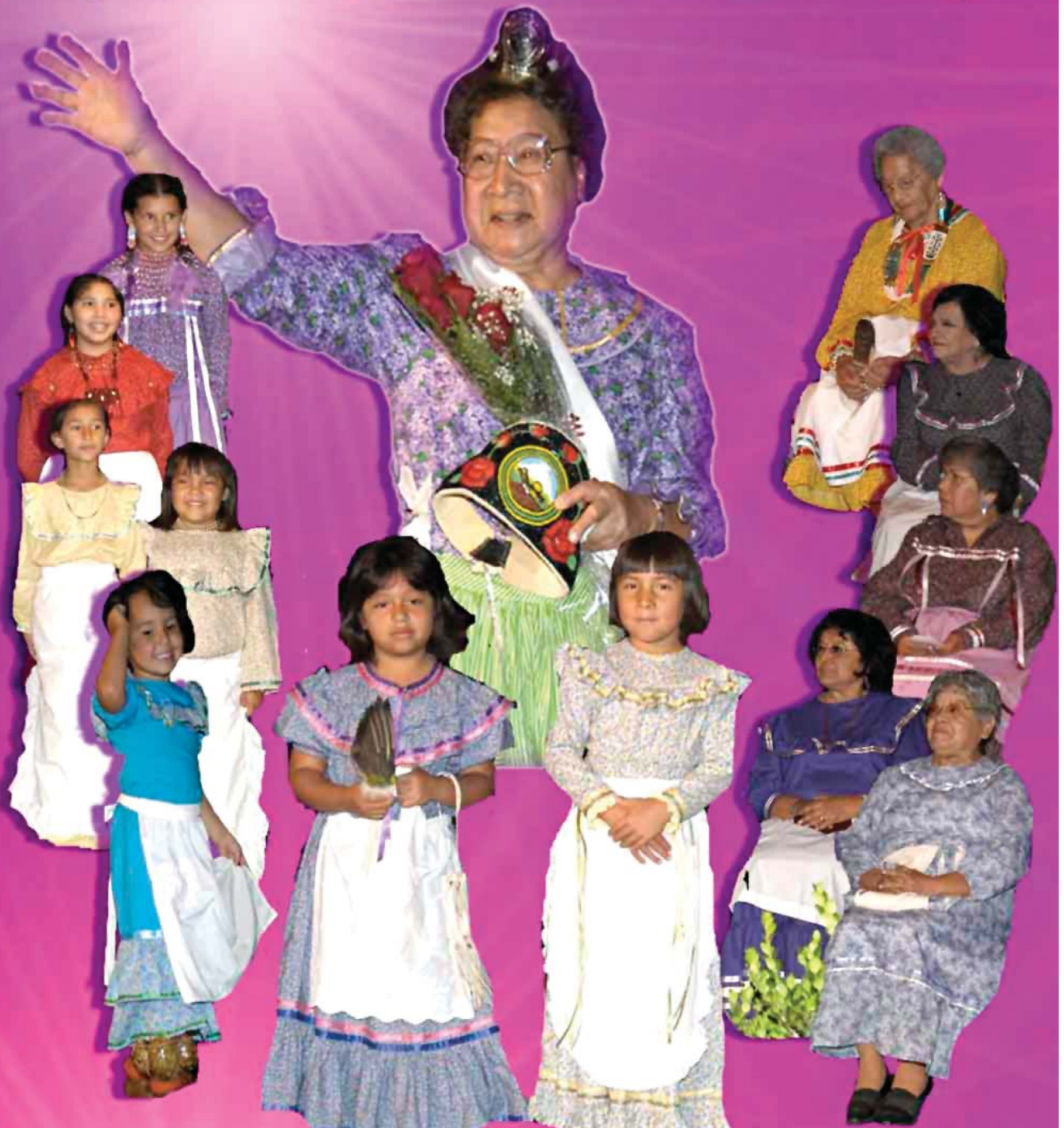


# Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant 2004





*Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant*  
*2004*





## Oklahoma Indian Summer Festival

BARTLESVILLE — The Oklahoma Indian Summer Festival will be September 17 through 19.

Among the available prizes is \$10,000 in awards for the juried art show, and \$2,000 for the winner takes all dance off at the Pow-Wow.

The Oklahoma Indian Summer Festival has a long history of sharing and educating the public about our rich Native American culture. Last year the Executive Committee decided to showcase a different Tribal Nation each year. This year's festival will honor the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as the showcase tribal nation.

## Food Distribution

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Food Distribution celebrated it's opening with an open house March 30. Della Cherry, Deputy Director of Community Services, served as Master of Ceremonies. Principal Chief A. D. Ellis, National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola, Executive Director Claude Sumner and representatives from the Chicasaw, Choctaw, Comanche, Seminole, and Cherokee tribes attended the Grand Opening.

The new center, located next to the Housing Authority, is open everyday for shopping, except the last day of the month which is inventory day. There are eleven tailgate sites in the Creek Nation where clients can pick up their commodities or they may elect to come to the new center to pick up their groceries.

## Youth Rock Explosion 3

CUSSETAH — The Little Cussetah Methodist Church would like to invite everyone to the Youth Rock Explosion 3, June 26 at the Little Cussetah Methodist Church from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

It is located 4 miles North of Henryetta on Highway 75. Signs will be posted.

There will be live music from Recycled Souls, Neviah Nevi, and Radial Angel. Concessions will be available.

## Tribal Affairs Update

OKMULGEE — The Transportation Planning Department is currently in the process of research and planning for a Tribal Transit Authority. The purpose of the Authority will be to establish a Transit System that will be of great service and benefit for the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The idea of a transit system would include buses and regularly scheduled routes, as well as on demand, curb to curb service, for dialysis patients. The reality of this system will depend on the need of our citizens and the areas of greatest demand.

The Transportation Planning Department is asking for input in making decisions that would be of greatest benefit to our tribal citizens. Ideas

can be submitted by filling out the survey on the Tribal Affairs/Transportation Planning website at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov).

## Notice of Public Hearing

OKMULGEE — A public hearing will be held for the presentation and discussion of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Three Year Plan. The meeting will be held at the Tribal Complex Mound Building beginning at 10 a.m. on June 24.

The Nation's Three Year Plan is typically utilized for purposes of support for Tribal Government, Education, Economic Development, and Social Services.

## Indian Credit Outreach

NORMAN — A unique approach has been designed by the National Tribal Development Association (NTDA) to address the unique agriculture credit needs of American Indian communities in Oklahoma. The pilot project, originally conducted in ten western states, has shown a significant increase in the number of Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans made to American Indian Farmers.

NTDA is the process of implementing Phase III of the FSA American Indian Credit Outreach Initiative into the state of Oklahoma. NTDA is sponsoring the availability of an expanded USDA sponsored credit outreach service targeted specifically for American Indian farmers. This program will incorporate outreach, education, and FSA loan application preparation services to American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth.

Loans available through FSA include, Guaranteed Farm Ownership, Farm Operating, Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, Direct Farm Ownership, and Rural Youth Loans.

For more information please check the website at [www.indianoutreach.com](http://www.indianoutreach.com).

## Springfield United Methodist Church Revival

OKEMAH — Springfield United Methodist church invites everyone to their revival on June 18 and 19. Speakers for the revival will be Rev. Jerry Baker and Edwin "Fish" Jimboy.

On Sunday June 20 they will be having Sunday morning communion and memorial service for Springfield member the late Jess Scott.

## REUNIONS

### Goate and Fish Reunion

The Children of Rev. John Jefferson Goate and Athelena Hanna Fish are hosting a family reunion for the Goate/Fish family to be held on July 4.

Rev. John Goate's parents were Rev. Alfred Goate and Rachel Checotah. His paternal grandparents were John R. Goat and Angeline Harrison Goat. His maternal grandparents were Samuel Checotah and Priscilla Checotah.

Athelena Hanna Fish/Goate's parents were

Peter Fish and Betsie Phillips. Her maternal grandparents were Johnson Phillips and Hanna Phillips.

For more information contact Alfred Goate at (405) 869-2152, Rachel Williams at (405) 682-2995, or Lydia Harrison at (405) 382-6905.

## Lasley Family Reunion

HANNA — The Lasley family is planning a family reunion to be held July 3 at 10 a.m. It will be held at the Hanna Indian Community Center located 2 1/2 miles east of Hanna. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the fellowship of family and friends. Please bring a covered dish.

## McCombs Reunion

EUFAULA — In November of 1914 the family and friends of Rev. William McCombs of McIntosh County gathered in Eufaula for their first recorded family reunion. Direct descendants, extended family, and friends will continue that tradition on Saturday July 3, at Tuskegee Church located west of Eufaula. A short program will begin around 10:30 a.m. followed by a potluck luncheon and lots of fellowship.

## Scott Reunion

BROKEN ARROW — The descendants of Samuel and Nancy McIntosh Scott, Daniel Scott, John Scott, Benny Scott, or Hepsey Scott Lewis will be having their 14th Annual Scott Family Reunion on June 19 at Community Center located at 1500 S. Main in Broken Arrow from 10 a.m to 5 p.m.

Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish, salad, or desert for the noon meal. The meats and drinks will be supplied. For more information contact Helena McIntosh Girod at (918) 451-1932 or e-mail at [hgirod@cinemaview.com](mailto:hgirod@cinemaview.com).

## From the Office of the Executive Director

Thanks to all the Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens and employees who have welcomed me into the family of employees. This has been a refreshing return to Oklahoma, family and friends.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a large enterprise with boundless potential. The National Council and the two Chiefs have been very active in these four months to improve the quality of services and life of Creek citizens. It is enjoyable to participate in planning and implementing their ideas and programs.

We work hard to help all of our citizens. Any concerns expressed to us are also studied and responses given. We welcome communications designed to make our nation stronger and more responsive.

We have been really active and will write detailed information in future issues. Thanks to our summer workers. See you at the festival and remember to register to vote!



# CONGRATULATIONS 2004 GRADULATIONS!

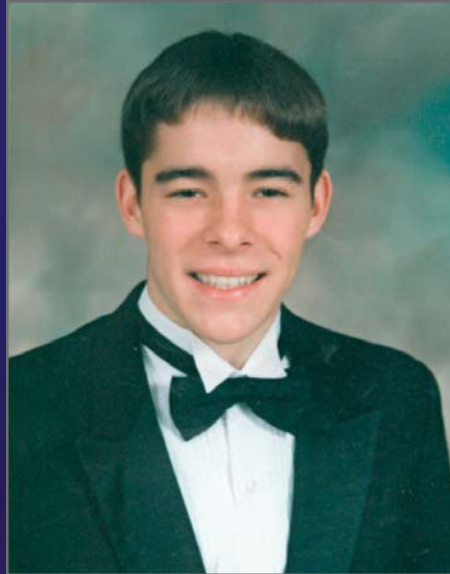
**Name:** Kevin Michael Agee

**Parents:** Jody Agee of Henryetta and Cathy Tarwater of Eufaula

**Grandparents:** Jaunita Burnett, the late Tommy Curran and Pearline Day

**School:** Northeastern State University/Bachelor of Accounting degree in Business Administration

**Highlights:** Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Group and Accounting Society at NSU. He is currently employed with Roy Jenkins & Associates in Muskogee.



**Name:** Kristen Ashley Armitage

**Parents:** Joan Jones of Baton Rouge and Michael Armitage

**Grandparents:** the late Jewel Dean Bruner of Carson and the late Rusty Carter of Lake Charles, Louisiana

**School:** Woodlawn High School

**Highlights:** who's who among American High school students and USAA National English Merit Award

**Future Plans:** attend Louisiana State University majoring in biology and then go onto LSU's school of Veterinarian Medicine.



**Name:** Ashley Jo Berryhill

**Parents:** Joe and Esther Berryhill of Okemah

**Grandparents:** the late Walter and Mary Jones and the late Elsie Roberts

**School:** Weleetka High School

**Highlights:** softball, basketball, vice-president of the Native American Club, selected to play for the East Central Conference All-Star for softball.

**Future Plans:** attend Haskell Indian Nations University



**Name:** Vanessa Kay Berryhill

**Parents:** Ron & Beverly Peace and Gene & Franchette Berryhill

**Grandparents:** Virginia Simpson and Chubby, Shirley and Dewayne Berryhill and the late Diane Peace

**School:** Holdenville High School

**Highlights:** NHS, three years; FCA, two years; spanish club, two years; web page, one year; Nasc four years & Princess one year, FCCLA one year, Peace & Justice club one year.





# CONGRATULATIONS 2004 GRADULATIONS!

**Name:** Mallory Elisa-Danielle Bible

**Parents:** Ruth Bible

**Grandparents:** Billie Scott and the late John Ellis (Sundala) Scott

**School:** Okemah High School

**Highlights:** four year letter "O" awards and Este Cate leadership award; softball, four years; Este Cate Club president, two years and vice president, two years.

**Future plans:** attend Haskell Indian Nations Univeristy



**Name** Gina Marie Bruner

**Parents:** Terry and Vicki Bruner of Chickasha

**Grandparents:** Billye Bruner of Holdenville and the late Eugene Bruner and Paul & Bertha Bullock of Anadarko.

**School:** University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma/Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education

**Highlights:** served as a staff writer for the college newspaper; active member of the USAO Inter-Tribal Club, active in SNEA, participate in "Read Across America"; initiated into the Pi Omega Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi.

**Future Plans:** continue tutoring and to tour New York City with USAO and plans to teach in the area of early childhood education and to pursue a Master's degree.



**Name:** Ryan Crockett Burner

**Parents:** Kima and Carla Bruner

**Grandparents:** Jewel Dean Bruner of Carson

**School:** Spring Woods High School

**Highlights:** football letterman and is active community volunteer and blood donor.

**Future Plans:** to pursue an education in computer programming

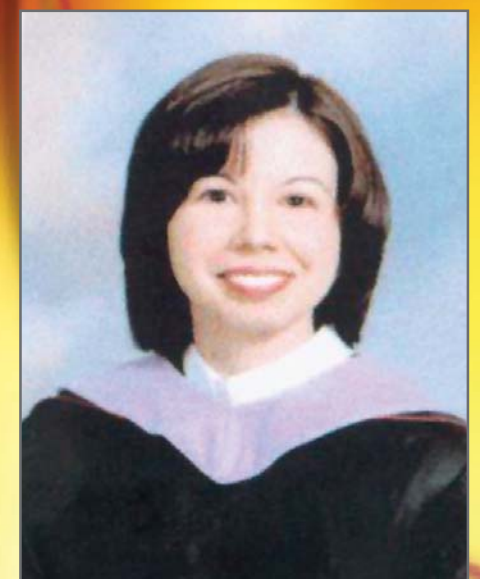
**Name:** Jamie Campbell

**Parents:** John and Linda Campbell

**Grandparents:** are the late Arthur & Annie Campbell and the late Willie & Eliza Jesse

**School:** University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry/DDS degree

**Highlights:** involved in the Society of American Indian Dental Students, American Student Dental Association and Christian Medical and Dental Association and provided dental services in Santa Cruz





# CONGRATULATIONS 2004 GRADULATIONS!

**Name:** Tyler DePriest

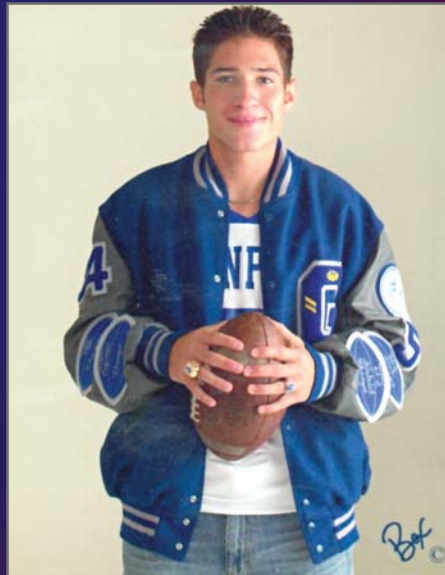
**Parents:** Mr. & Mrs. Mike DePriest of Bixby

**Grandparents:** Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell DePriest of Bixby

**School:** Glenpool High School

**Highlights:** activities include Fellowship of Christian athletes, Native American Student Association, Varsity kicker football, spanish club, soccer, and senior class president

**Future Plans:** attend University of Central Oklahoma in the fall.



**Name:** Lyndsey R. Girod

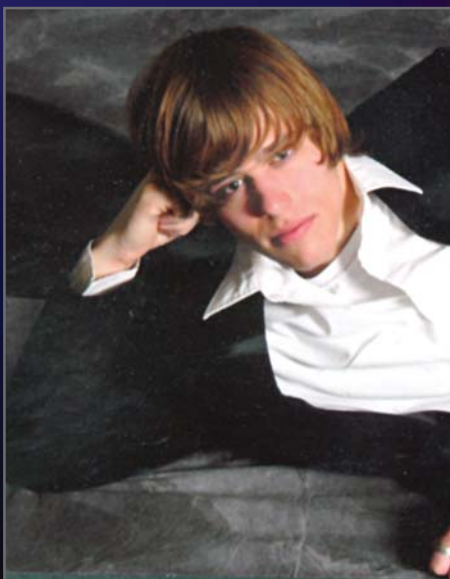
**Parents:** Paul and Johnna Girod

**Grandparents:** Johnny Mack and Virginia Brown

**School:** Jenks High School

**Highlights:** National Honor Society, Oklahoma Indian Honor Society, Superintendent's honor roll

**Future Plans:** attend Dartmouth College in the fall to study Environmental Science and Native American Studies



**Name:** Adam Christopher Hale

**Parents:** Capt. Brent Hale, Jr., M.D. and Monica Hale

**Grandparents:** Brent & Bernice Hale of Okmulgee and Ted & Barbara Dailey of Oilton and Dwayne Wright of Cushing

**School:** Norman North High School

**Highlights:** national honor roll; "HOOT" Gibson Memorial Scholarship; all-state actor; who's who

**Future Plans:** attend California State University and major in Theatre and work toward a bachelor's in performing arts

**Name:** Kassey Lynn Harjo

**Parents:** Rachel & Jerry Sumka and the late Victor Harjo

**Grandparents:** Minnie & John Lowe and Neomi & Charlie Harjo

**School:** Wilson High School

**Highlights:** Honorable Mention Tulsa Indian Art Festival; Who's Who among high school students; BPA; BPA reporter & treasurer ; yearbook sports editor; Key club

**Future Plans:** attend OSU-Okmulgee in the fall and go onto University of Oklahoma, majoring in accounting





# CONGRATULATIONS 2004 GRADULATIONS!

**Name:** Kenny Rene Leybas

**Parents:** Janet Barnett and the late Kenny Leybas

**Grandparents:** Mr. & Mrs. Joe & Chiquita McNac and Mr. & Mrs. Royce & Karen Juneau, and the late Mr & Mrs. Bennie & Lillian Leybas

**School:** Okmulgee High School

**Highlights:** honor roll,

**Future Plans:** continue tutoring and to tour New York City with USAO and plans to teach in the area of early childhood education and to pursue a Master's degree.



**Name:** Isaac Mosquito

**Parents:** Rex and Robbie Mosquito

**Grandparents:** John & Anna Jones and Joe & the late Lena Mosquito

**School:** Liberty Public Schools

**Highlights:** four years principal's honor roll, who's who among American students for four years; active in football, basketball; March Madness MVP.

**Future Plans:** attend Tulsa Community College to pursue as a fire jumper.



**Name:** Judy Yolanda Powell

**Parents:** Chris and Yvette of Wetumka

**Grandparents:** of the late Judy & Bobbie Powell and Calvin Battiest of Tulsa and the late Yvonne Martin

**School:** Sequoyah High School

**Highlights:** nominated for who's who among American High School athletes; running track for two years

**Future Plans:** find a job and live a happy life

**Name:** Derrick J. Riley

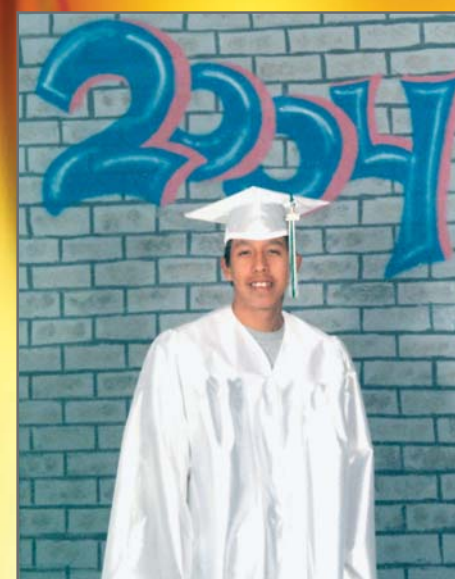
**Parents:** Trillia Riley

**Grandparents:** the late John Riley and Christine Riley

**School:** Graham High School

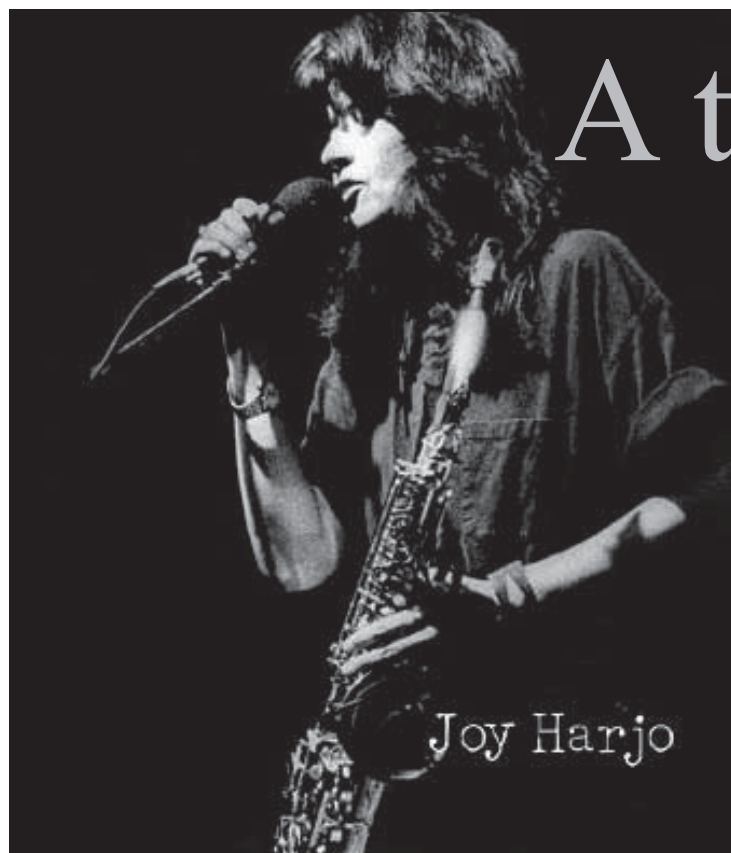
**Highlights:** all-conference basketball; NIYP best leadership, faculty, scholarship scholastic meet awards; basketball; baseball, lighthorse explorers

**Future Plans:** attend college at Bacone



Congratulations to all High School and College graduates as they march to receive their diplomas and look toward the future. We applaud and encourage you to build on your successes. Wishing you the best of luck!! From the Higher Education Department Staff.





# A true Muscogee Artist

Don't bother the earth spirit that lives here. She is working on a story. It is the oldest story in the world and it is delicate, changing. If she sees you watching she will invite you in for coffee, give you warm bread, and you will be obligated to stay and listen. But this is no ordinary story. You will have to endure earthquakes, lightning, the deaths of all those you love, the most blinding beauty. Its a story so compelling, you may not want to leave; this is how she traps you. See that stone finger over there? That is the only one who ever escaed.— Joy Harjo from *Mudhills, Beautiful Valley*

by Gerald Wofford

The nineteen sixties and seventies was a time of total exploration and expression. The society of that time was looking for a way to tell or show their story to a world that wasn't quite ready for it. For Native Americans, it was no different. The 1969 take over of Alcatraz island and the Wounded-Knee take over in the 1973 made the world stop and take notice and allowed the Indigenous people to say, "we are alive and well and want to be heard!"

The conditions were also right for proper expressions to bloom in the fields of the arts, and one Muscogee (Creek) citizen was right there. Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Joy Harjo looked outside the streets and buildings that surrounded her urban home, and wanted to look for something more. She found it in musical lyrics and the written word.

The music and poetry of Joy Harjo captures a unique blend of quaint, down-home American Indian mentality, while also exposing the global place of where Indigenous people dwell, desire, and think.

Harjo would go to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to attend the Institute of American Indian Arts. While there, she studied painting and theatre, allowing herself to explore other forms of Native expression. Every artist has a time that they truly find their artistic expressions, her's was in the form of music, poetry, and writing.

Harjo is a true to her work and her answers. When asked about her motivation toward creating *Native Joy for Real*, her response was, "what is the motivation behind any art"? But Harjo does admit that the written word and song are such main staples of Native Art. "They are at the root," says Harjo. "We humans are story-gatherers. We gather stories now from TV, computers, and even our cellphones! We also like songs."

Harjo has created music in the past with her old band, Poetic Justice. The band was instrumental in helping Harjo create some memorable work, including *Letter From The End Of The Twentieth Century*. Although disbanded, Harjo mentions most of the members went to form a new group called Native Roots. "There is no band name," says Harjo, commenting about her current musical status. "Just me and whoever I bring with me. I brought in excellent studio musicians to play on the CD, including Muscogean singer Carolyn Dunn. There's also a cut with Charlie Hill, the Oneida Comedian," says Harjo.

"My newly released CD is a mix of rock, folk, jazz, and hip-hop with tribal elements," says Harjo, who also mentions one selection on the cut that is partly performed in Muscogee (Creek).

Harjo is also an accomplished writer, having ten books published with 8 being works of poetry and another an anthology. A few titles include: *A Map to the Next World*; *Poems and Tales*, *How We Became Human*; *New and Selected Poems*; and *The Woman Who Fell From the Sky*.

Harjo has also written a children's book entitled *The Good Luck Cat*. The children's book tells about Woogie, a family cat who brings good fortune to anyone petting her. But Woogie has used up eight of her nine lives and suddenly disappears. Woogie's owner, a little girl, anxiously waits for her return. For this creative piece, Harjo was named **Writer of the Year** in 2001 by the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers.

When asked about the current status of Native American poetry and music, Harjo has mixed feelings. "The music especially, is a growing art form," said Harjo. "Poetry, too, but readers in this country are becoming fewer readers of poetry. There is good American Indian Literature that is being published. There's fiction by Silko, poetry by Ray Young Bear, and our own tribal authors like Annete Arkeketa."

But American Indians can be very critical of themselves and Native Art in general. So what makes for a good Indian poem? "That's a tough question," says Harjo. "A poem is made up of language or sound qualities, color movement, and ideas. In a good poem they all fit together. A good poem will make you stop and listen to what you didn't think you knew. There's always an element of mystery. Humor is always useful."

As mentioned earlier, Harjo was born in Tulsa. She is related to the Wind Clan. Her family's ground is Hickory Ground and she is a member of the Tvllvhasse Wygogie Grounds.

In 2003, Harjo received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** from the *Native Writers Circle of The Americas*. Harjo is currently teaching at the University of California at Los Angeles. Other educational institutions she has taught at include: Arizona St., Santa Fe Community College, Institute of American Indian Arts, University of Colorado, University of Arizona, and University of New Mexico.



Council

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**Paula Perkins-Willits** to serve on the gaming operations authority board;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) TR 04-047, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement with Jet Fireworks L.L.C. for the operation of one temporary fireworks sales facility on tribal trust land to benefit the Duck Creek Indian Community;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) TR 04-048, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement with Jet Fireworks L.L.C. for the operations of one temporary fireworks sales facility on tribal trust land to benefit the Glenpool Creek Indian Community;

- approved (23-0-1) TR 04-049, approving the selection of contractors for bid #2004-006-1, the new construction of ten (10) homes for eight (8) donated sites and two (2) purchased vacant lots;

abstain were: **McIntosh**, McIntosh;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) TR 04-051, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement with Jet Fireworks L.L.C. for the operations of one temporary fireworks sales facility on tribal trust land to benefit the Tulsa Creek Indian Community;

- approved (18-6-0) TR 04-053, confirming the nomination of **Arlene Efurd** to serve on the gaming operations authority board;

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; and **Williams**, Okmulgee;

- failed (6-18-0) NCA 04-043, amending the gaming code to eliminate the gaming operations authority board and create a chief executive officer of gaming to oversee all Muscogee (Creek) Nation gaming operations;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Notaro**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvpvtce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

Speaker **Yahola** relinquished the chair to Second Speaker, **Berryhill** to address NCA 04-044;

- kill (21-0-3) NCA 04-044, authorizing a special appropriation to the Tahlahvse (Cromwell) ceremonial grounds for the construction of bathroom facilities;

abstain were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **Yahola**, Tukvpvtce;

Second Speaker **Berryhill** turned the chair back over to Speaker **Yahola**;

representative **Nichols** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- return to committee (15-8-0) NCA 04-057, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the National Council for the purchase of twenty four (24) cellular telephones for the members of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council;

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh, **Notaro**, McIntosh; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvpvtce; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa; and **Kelley**,

Tulsa;

representative **Nichols** and **Pickering** were out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (22-0-0) NCA 04-063, repealing NCA 04-019 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds for the purchase of four (4) security vehicles that will be utilized by the three (3) tribally operated casinos (Tulsa, Okmulgee, and Muskogee) for the gaming security's restricted use in patrolling each casino parking lot and adjacent tribal trust properties only)

representative for **Nichols** and **Pickering** were out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (22-0-0) NCA 04-064, amending NCA Title 21, §3-109, entitled "License eligibility determination";

- approved as amended (24-0-0) NCA 04-065, authorizing an increase of the 25% restriction on the permanent fund to 60% to provide a larger percentage of the permanent fund available for loan collateralization and amending the MCN code of laws annotated, title 37, section 2-203, E. permanent fund;

representative **Cleghorn** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-066, authorizing a special appropriation to a Creek citizen in need of emergency assistance;

representative **Cleghorn** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-067, authorizing a special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen in need of assistance to obtain special medical treatment;

representative **Cleghorn** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- failed (1-22-0) NCA 04-068, authorizing a special appropriation to sponsor the Northeastern State University Broken Arrow, 2nd Annual Cultural Festival, May 1, 2004;

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Harjo**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Notaro**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Parish**, Muskogee; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvpvtce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

representative **Cleghorn** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (22-0-1) NCA 04-069, authorizing a special appropriation for two Muscogee (Creek) to compete in the "Kamehameh" basketball classic in Honolulu, Hawaii;

representatives **Harjo** and **Wind** were out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (22-0-0) NCA 04-072, appropriating funds to the senior Methodist Organization of the Northeast District for the annual camp meeting of the United Methodist Church;

representatives **Harjo** and **Wind** were out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (22-0-0) NCA 04-073, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training summer work program; representatives **Harjo** and **Wind** were out of seat at time

of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (22-0-0) NCA 04-074, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the Adult Vocational Training program, Employment and Training program, Division of Human Development;

representative **Wind** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (23-0-0) NCA 04-075, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the Office of the Principal Chief's budget;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-076, authorizing a special appropriation to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) citizen to attend the 2004 National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-077, authorizing the expenditure of the Title Plant Improvement Program award for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Realty Trust Services department;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-078, authorizing a special appropriation for electrical renovations of the Claude Cox Omnplex;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-086, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the emergency hardship program, social services department;

- approved (18-5-1) NCA 04-079, authorizing a special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen selected to participate in the conference in Rapid City, South Dakota for the National Women's Veterans Association of State Coordinators;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **Jones**, Okmulgee, **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-080, amending NCA Title 21, §5-106 and chapters 5., "Rules of operation and general applicability" as amended by NCA 03-155 and §6-107,B;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-081, amending NCA 04-033 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing an annual appropriation of funds for community development block grants, designating how those funds shall be disbursed and amending title 11, §2-102, regarding technical assistance and training to communities;

- approved (22-1-1) NCA 04-083, authorizing a special appropriation for the 2004 Miss Mvskoike (Creek) Nation Pageant; voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee; abstain were: **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved unanimously as amended (24-0-0) NCA 04-084, authorizing a special appropriation to the communication department for the purchase of supplies and hiring of additional staff;

- approved unanimously as amended (24-0-0) NCA 04-071, appropriating a Title IV-B subpart 2 ("promoting safe and stable families") grant match for Children and Family Services Administration and authorizing expenditure;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-087, authorizing appropriating funds for repairs and improvements to the property of an original allottee of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-088, appropriating funds to provide handicap accessibility to the property of an Muscogee (Creek) citizen.



## HELEN CHUPCO

HOLDENVILLE — Funeral services for Helen L. Chupco were held May 1 at Salt Creek Indian Methodist Church with Rev. Jerry Don Baker officiating.

She was born in Maud, Oklahoma, on March 10, 1919 to Billie and Bessie Palmer of Holdenville.

Helen was very active in Indian organizations and tribal affairs on the local, state, and national level. As the wife of the late, Lee L. Chupco, Methodist minister, they worked together in serving the Indian people in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. She served 23 years on the Creek Nation tribal council representing the Muskogee District.

Her activities included: Executive Director of the Tulsa Indian Center for thirteen years; Claremore Indian Health Service Advisory Board; Oklahoma Indian Rights Assoc. Board; Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women; and was selected as the outstanding Indian Woman of the year 1973; Murrow Indian Children's Home Board of Trustees; served as State President for the Indian Methodist Women's Organization; honored by the Oklahoma State Senate in April 1992 in recognition for her leadership in tribal government; Oklahoma area IHS Advisory Board; Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission; Tulsa Area Council on Aging appointed by the Mayor; and National Indian Education Association.

In June 1993, she retired from Indian Education in Muskogee Public Schools.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; husband; three sisters; and two brothers.

Survivors include: daughter, Waukomis Lewis of Claremore; son, James Leroy Chupco; brother, Louis Palmer of Holdenville; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Interment will be at Holdenville Cemetery.

## GEORGE COOK

OKEMAH — Funeral services for George Washington Patrick Cook were held May 5 at his home with Rev. Harry Long officiating.

He was born February 24, 1917 in Okemah to Jesse Cook and Annie King, he grew up in a family of three sisters and one brother. Cook attended Tiger Flats School and served his country as a Triple A Gun Crewman in World War II from 1943 until his honorable discharge on January 14, 1946. During his military service he received three Bronze Stars and the Good Conduct Medal.

George and Ella Mae Gray married February 14, 1950 and celebrated 54 years together.

Cook loved to play baseball and stickball. He also like to watch basketball and football and was an OU fan. He was a member of Thlophlocco Indian Methodist Church and was active at the Alabama Ceremonial ground. He loved to watch his grandchildren and great-grandchildren play; and also tell stories about how he was the fastest man in Hughes County.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; grandson, Jason William Cook; and a great-grandson, Avery DeWayne Harjo.

Survivors include: his wife, of the home; Barbara

and Buford Harjo of Bristow; Carol and Charles Taylor and Jessie and Sonny Givens, all of Okemah; Beans and Randy Smith of Paden; George Lee Cook, of the home; Cindy and Thomas of Clearview; Chebon Cook of Okmulgee; and Adam and Naomi of Okemah; three sisters, Lucille Dunson of Glenpool, Leah Dunson and Minnie Johnson, both of Okemah; twenty grandchildren; twenty-three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Pallbearers were his grandsons.

## BUDDY LINDSEY JR.

DUSTIN — Funeral services for Buddy "Sluggo" Lindsey Jr. were held May 20 at Faith Baptist Church with Rev. Richmond Carr officiating.

He was born January 27, 1950 in Henryetta to Buddy Lindsey Sr. and Melissa Wacoche Lindsey.

Buddy was raised in the Hanna area until 1957 when his father passed away. He moved to Henryetta where he attended school and then to Wetumka. He finished his last 2 years of school at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah and graduated in 1968. Lindsey then attended the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas.

He worked in construction and lived in several Oklahoma communities before settling in Okmulgee to be near his family due to failing health. Buddy spent the past year and a half in Wetumka.

Lindsey enjoyed football especially OU. He also enjoyed fishing and visiting with family and friends.

Preceding him in death were: his father; brothers, James Melvin Wacoche and Alex Lewis Lindsey; and daughter, Harriet Lindsey.

Survivors include: brother, Danny Lindsey of Dewar; two sisters, Flora Jackson of Okmulgee and Leola Hill of Bristow; two sons, Mose Lindsey of Okmulgee and Freeland Lindsey of Stidham; daughter, April Lindsey of Fayetteville, Arkansas; uncle; and several nieces, nephews, and other family members. Interment was at Greenwood Cemetery in Eufaula.

## VERONICA SCOTT

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Veronica Scott were held February 20 at Robert Simons Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Amon Harjo officiating.

She lived most of her life in Henryetta. Scott attended Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas from 1957 to 1961. Her occupation was administrative assistant.

Veronica was a member of the alligator clan and of the Arbeka tribal town. She liked to shop, travel, and spend time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Scott was a world traveler and lived briefly in Tehran, Iran during the 1970's and in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in the 1980's. While living there she taught the refugees English so that they may one day migrate to the United States.

Preceding her in death were: her parents, Charley Micco King and Lilly Belle Starr; and one brother, Charles E. King.

Survivors include: her husband, Kenneth of the home; two daughters, Donna Scott and Tanya Reynolds; four grandchildren; sister, Emily King of Henryetta; one brother, Bob King of Tulsa; and half-brother, Second Chief Alfred

Berryhill of Okmulgee.

Interment was at Westlawn Cemetery.

## SANDRA WILSON

EUFAULA — Funeral services for Sandra Elaine Wilson were held March 29 at the First Indian Baptist with Rev. Allen Colbert officiating.

She was born May 7, 1949, at Talihina, Oklahoma, to Ben and Henryetta Beaver Marshall.

Sandra was the assistant principal at the Window Rock High School in Ft. Defiance, Arizona. Wilson had a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Northeastern University and a Master's of Education from Oklahoma University.

Her church affiliation was with Tuskegee Indian Baptist Church.

Preceding her in death were: her father; son, Osce Wilson; and sister-in-law, Marion Francis.

Survivors include: friend, Dan Tsosie of Mexican Water, Arizona; two sons, Barry Leon and Tvse Ben Wilson, both of Eufaula; daughter, Julea Wilson of Eufaula; two granddaughters; mother; four brothers, Tony Marshall of Owyhee, Nevada, Mike Francis of Colgate, Jerry and Joe Francis of Eufaula; three sisters, Benita Abernathy of Muskogee, Hannah Francis of Glenpool, and Edna Natseway of Tulsa; three nephews; and one niece.

Pallbearers were: Tvse and Barry Wilson; Ron Abernathy; Chris Natseworth; Rick, Gary, Bo, and Randy Colbert. Honorary pallbearers include Window Rock High School and Monument Valley High School faculty and students.

## Gratitude

Our family wishes to extend our most special and deepest gratitude to all who provided food, words of encouragement, sent flowers, love donations, and most of all who made prayers, during the hospital stay and funeral services of our father.

Words alone can't express how much we appreciate all the love and support that was given by all. We would like to give a special *mvto* to Muskogee (Creek) Nation Social Services, Creek Nation Community Hospital nurses and employees. Also all the ministers and church members of sister churches that helped with everything. A special thanks to Wilson Hicks and Allison Phillips. God Bless all of you.

### John Lowe family

We would like to say Thank You to the ones who may have sent a lovely card, sat quietly in a chair, or may have sent a floral piece, whatever it might have been we seen it.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say; perhaps you were not their at all and just thought about us that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts we Thank You so much. We appreciate everything you done in our time of sadness.

### Cesar Perez-Wilson family



## Shop talk with Gerald

It's finally here folks! The 30th annual Creek Nation Festival kicks off Thursday night, June 17. For those of you keeping score at home, this will actually be the 31st Annual Creek Nation Rodeo. This unique All-Indian cowboy event actually started in 1973. Bob Arrington, coordinator for this year's rodeo, remembers the early beginnings.

"The current arena where the Creek Nation Rodeo is held wasn't built until the mid-80's," said Arrington. "So we had the first rodeo at the south end of Okmulgee, straight east of where the old Oakdale school building once stood."

Arrington recalls that then Chief Claude Cox wanted a special event for the Creek citizens, so of course the rodeo was created. "It was very well attended that first year," recalls Arrington, who mentioned Gene Dunson, Mel Autry and Mel Leblanc as being important members in creating the first event. "Of course, the next year the festival started, but the omni-plex and everything that houses the festival today wasn't built yet. The first Creek Festival took place on the current Muscogee (Creek) Nation main complex grounds.

Speaking of softball, up north in Lawrence, Kansas, the 10th annual Haskell softball tournament was recently held. The team North Americans captured first place, while the Florida Seminoles, Country Warriors, and Duck Creek Casino finished second, third, and fourth respectfully. Eventhough they lost their first game of the tournament, the North Americans battled through the loser's bracket and to a Championship finish. The North Americans defeated the Florida Seminoles twice in the championship game. Talk about your perseverance, but isn't that the way it usually goes. How many of you weekend warriors can tell stories from way back when of having to battle through the proverbial losers bracket just to make it to the Championship and win it all. But, that's what adds to the spectacle of the sport, especially Indian style. That's why they play the game!

The Creek Nation Festival will have many sporting events to choose from, such as softball, volleyball, basketball, and track and field. Communities really like to come out to support and showcase their area talent during this event. The Communications Department will be capturing video and photos of the entire weekend. Photos and a DVD set of the festival will be available for purchase in late July to early August. The highlight of the DVD set will be the men's and women's fast-pitch championship games.

A big thanks goes out to all who have purchased the DVD copies of the March Madness All-Indian Basketball Tournament.

Best of luck to all the teams, softball and otherwise, that are entered in the Creek Nation festival. Hope your teams win, but most of all just have fun!

## All-Indian basketball team created

In the nineteen seventies, if you don't remember that time ask your parents, a professional basketball league emerged out of the shadow of the old and established National Basketball Association, (NBA), the American Basketball Association (ABA).

From 1967 to 1976, the ABA offered a unique alternative to the NBA and the way that basketball was played back then. For instance, a rule was created in the ABA that allowed a player to shoot behind a line and score more than just 2 points. The creation of the present day 3-point line was born. Also, the ball would not be the standard off-orange color that is synonymous with the round-ball, it would be red, white, and blue.

Future NBA superstars and hall of famers arose from this newly formed league. Players such as Julius Erving, George Gervin, Artis Gilmore, and Moses Malone would bring to the game of basketball a new and exciting way to play and pump some style into a sport that already had substance.

High scoring offensive games were encouraged and colorful styles and personalities were introduced. This league served as a foundation to the unique interpretations of street-ball that we see today.

Eventhough the league folded in 1976, teams such as the Indiana Pacers, San Antonio Spurs, Denver Nug-



gets, and New York Nets, which later became the New Jersey Nets, were able to survive and operate successfully in the NBA.

The old league and era of the ABA may have folded, but not the spirit. Beginning in the fall of 2004, a new ABA League will begin play. A total of 21 teams have already been created in such places as Detroit, Utah, and Oklahoma City.

Spider Ledesma wants to make sure that American Indians are well represented in the ABA. Ledesma is creating the first All-Native American team that will play in the ABA.

The team, called the Native American National Team, is holding tryouts beginning this month.

"We have received phone calls from interested Native players from all over the U.S. and Canada as well," says Ledesma. "The response from the Native American and mainstream media has been equally supportive and we thank them for their coverage of our Native American National Team in this historic opportunity.

Ledesma serves as the team's CEO and President. Seven cities are officially scheduled for tryouts. The first tryout for the team will be July 10 in Billings, Montana. Try-outs will also be conducted in Oklahoma in July at a site to be determined. For more information about try-outs, contact Ledesma at (601) 799-1880.



## Mason Eagles return to championship game was long awaited

MASON — Some teams may have to wait for a few years for another opportunity to compete in a state championship game. For the Mason Boys Basketball Team, it has been 63 years since the Eagles last played for the top spot in basketball.

This year the Eagles returned to the Class B State Tournament and advanced to the championship game at the Big House in Oklahoma City. The team had reached the quarter-finals in 1981, 1987, 1995, and 2003.

The march to the championship game was a memorable one. The Eagles finished their season with 29 wins and only 3 losses. Last year, the Eagles were undefeated throughout the season until

this year's and last year's state champion Calumet Chieftains. This was the third time in two playoff seasons that Mason and Calumet met on the hardwood.

Eventhough the Eagles came up short on their efforts for a state title losing by a score of 65 to 54, the Mason Boys Basketball Team finished as the State Runner-Up in Class B and look forward to greater success in the future. Also, the team plans to definitely not wait another 63 years for a return trip to the Class B championship game.

Seven Muscogee (Creek) athletes contributed to the winning season of the Mason Eagles this year. They are: Brian Culley, Justin Hicks, Jimmy Hicks, Ty Allen, Mickey



Pictured above, from L to R, are: front row, Mickey Hardin, Jimmy Hicks, Clifton Sands; back row, Ty Allen, Brian Culley, Colby Vass, Justin Hicks, and Jesse Vanderslice.

Hardin, Clifton Sands, and Colby Vass.